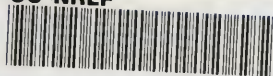
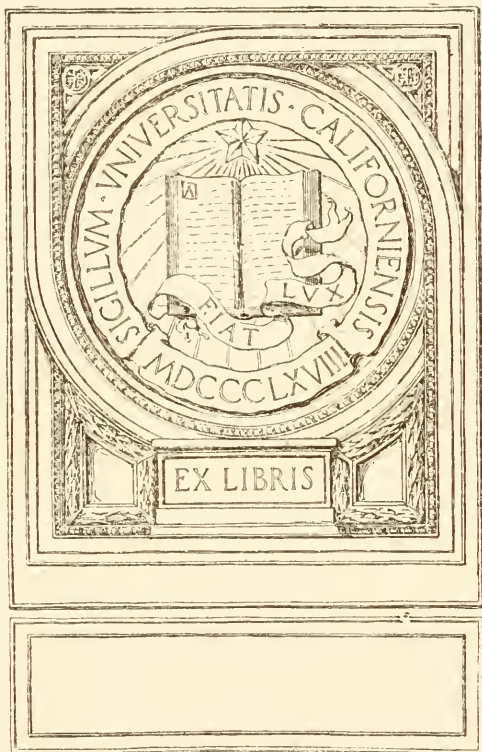


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# OUTSIDE THE BARNWELL GATE

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE INTIMATE HISTORY  
OF MEDIEVAL CAMBRIDGE

BY THE

REV. H. P. STOKES, LL.D., F.S.A.

HON. FELLOW OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE



Cambridge :

PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

SOLD BY DEIGHTON, BELL & CO., LTD.; AND BOWES & BOWES  
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OUTSIDE THE BARNWELL GATE

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No. XLVII



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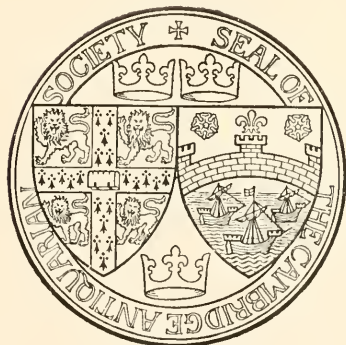


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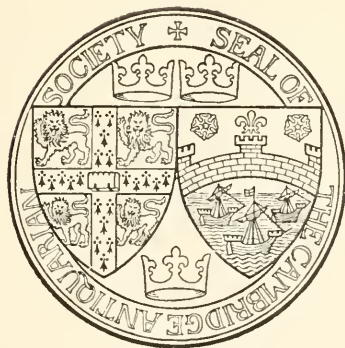
*(continued)*

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## CHAPTER I

### THE BARNWELL GATE

In the turbulent days when King John was in arms against his Barons, as at other periods in English history, Cambridge was a place of strategic importance. At the end of the year when the celebrated *Magna Carta* was signed, on November 6th, 1215, we find that a royal writ<sup>1</sup>, tested at Rochester, commanded the exchequer to allow our bailiffs the costs they had incurred in enclosing the town (*in claustrum ville Cant.*). The Castle was alternately in the hands of the King and of his opponents; John was at Cambridge in the spring of 1216, and again in the September of the same year—about a month before his tragic decease. But the Barons soon afterwards retook the Castle and town of Cambridge, where a little later Louis the dauphin of France, whom they had invited as their leader, held a council. We need not here follow the course of events—the withdrawal of the foreign prince and the recognition of the young King—nor need we even in outline chronicle the tedious history of the next half-century, when Henry grew in years, but not in wisdom.

The years 1266 and 1267 find Cambridge again a centre in another struggle between King and Barons. In the latter year Henry III was at the University town, taking active steps for its fortification. Records of these defensive measures may be read in the *Memoranda*<sup>2</sup> of Barnwell Church, written

<sup>1</sup> *Rotuli Clausarum*, 17 John, m. 19 (Hardy, 234 b).

<sup>2</sup> *Liber Memorandorum Ecclesie de Bernewelle*, ed. J. W. Clark, M.A., p. 122. *C. A. S. Octavo Series. No. XLVII.*

at the end of the thirteenth century, or in the pages of Caius's *History of Cambridge*<sup>1</sup>, printed in the year 1574.

But the story may be told in the quaint words of Fuller<sup>2</sup>:

“Only the south and east of the town lay open, which the King intended to fortify. In order whereunto he built two gates, Trumpington Gate by St Peter's Church, now ruined, on the south; Barnwell Gate by St Andrew's Church now decayed on the east. And because gates without walls are but compliments in matter of strength, he intended to wall the town about, if time permitted him. Meantime he drew a deep ditch (called King's Ditch at this day) round about the south and east parts of Cambridge. Presently news is brought to him, that Gilbert, earl of Clare, had seized on the chief city of the realm. No policy for the King to keep Cambridge and lose London the while. Thither marched he in all haste with his army, and may be said to carry the walls of Cambridge away with him, the design thereof sinking at his departure, etc.”

The town being thus left without a guard, we learn (from the Barnwell *Memoranda*) that insurgents from the Isle of Ely came in force and burnt the gates which the King had constructed.

Something more may be said of the Ditch and of the Gates.

The ms.<sup>3</sup> just quoted says: *Rex vero fecit edificare portas, et facere fossatas in circuitu ville*. Here it will be noticed that the plural, *ditches* or *trenches*, is used. This may merely be a casual expression; or it may refer to different sections of the ditch; or it may mean that there were more ditches than one. This last opinion is held by a distinguished authority, Professor McKenny Hughes<sup>4</sup>, who has written for our Society two remarkable papers. In these he maintains that excavations and exposures have suggested that a concentric ditch, or ditches, ran near the King's Ditch in certain places. To limit ourselves here to the neighbourhood of the Barnwell Gate, the Professor indicates, and shows on a map, two such patches; one, near the present Post Office, need not detain us, as it is only quoted on hearsay; the other, near Mr Hunnybun's premises, is elaborately described and its contents are carefully

<sup>1</sup> *Historia Cantebr. Academiae*, Lib. i, p. 43.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. Univ. Camb.* by T. Fuller, ed. Prickett and Wright, pp. 40, 41.

<sup>3</sup> *Lib. Mem. Eccl. de Bern.* (u.s.), p. 122.

<sup>4</sup> *C.A.S. Proc.* xxxiv, pp. 34, etc.

dealt with. The present writer, however, ventures to think that the following documentary evidence suggests a more probable theory than that of a concentric ditch:

"Item wee present the sayd John ffidlyn for a channell or sincke passing from the street neare the east gate of Trinity Churchyard through his grownd, and soe into the King's ditch which Channell or sincke for want of elensing, to give suffieient passe to the water, upon every suddayne fall of Rayne causeth the Adjoyning Houses and Cellars to be drowned."

Thus complained the old Court of Sewers<sup>1</sup>, under date 10 April, 1633; they also present another inhabitant for certain nuisances "on the sayd sincke." Here we find a Channel running down through the Hunnybun property into the King's Ditch. Does not this account for the exposure referred to by Professor Hughes? The more so, as there does not seem to be, in this neighbourhood, any other authenticated sign of a concentric ditch.

As to the gate itself, the only description<sup>2</sup> of it which has come down to us is that by Dr Caius, who says that when he wrote (in 1573) there was only one column, one upright wooden post, remaining; though the memory of two such still survived. That wood was the chief material of the original gate is evident from the record of the destruction by fire.

The site of the Barnwell Gate would, of course, be on the town side of the King's Ditch, reaching from the predecessor of the present Post Office to the building opposite. The ditch ran along the west wall of the Churchyard of St Andrew the Great and, crossing the road, continued down the west side of what is now called Hobson Street. We have seen that it had been intended to erect a wall within the ditch; but though houses were demolished in certain places for this purpose, there is no record of such destruction in the neighbourhood of the Barnwell Gate, which doubtless reached from building to building. In some parts of the circuit, there was an open space—a kind of boulevard—perambulating alongside the ditch; but again we have no tradition of such a clearance near the gate with which we are dealing.

<sup>1</sup> Registry, Camb. Univ. 3. 2. 83.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. Cant. Acad. Lib.* ii, p. 116.

## NOTE

The following may be quoted from a paper by Professor Hughes, printed in the *Proceedings* of our Society, No. xxxiv, pp. 34 and 35:

“If we examine the geography of Cambridge we shall find that an obvious place for a ditch is near the foot of the rising ground in front of Christ’s College. It would be naturally continued so as to cut off the marshy land, now enclosed in Downing College grounds, where the base of the gravel is full of water, and running thence along the margin of the gravel bed which rises by the Fitzwilliam Museum, would reach the river near the King’s Mill.

“The gravel-terrace here formed dry ground on which ran the Trumpington Road, just as the promontory of gravel by Christ’s College offered a dry route to Barnwell. Hence the two important ways, or gates, as they were in those days often called, ran out of Cambridge at these points. It is not improbable that the names Barnwell Gate, Trumpington Gate, referred to the roads long before they were applied to any portal, as we have no knowledge of a wall through which any entrance-gate was required. There may of course have been a bar at which tolls were exacted, and if the ditch was meant for defence, there probably was some means of lifting the bridge or barring the access to it. It is a matter of history that such structures were erected, but they were probably only of wood, as we read of their being easily burned down. On the whole, considering that the name of the ‘gate’ is that of a distant village, not of some local object, and that the word gate was so generally used for a road in the south in old times as it is still in the north of England, we may have here originally the name of the road, and not of any entrance to the town, though the name may have been afterwards applied to the portals as well, and, at last, to them exclusively.”

It should, however, be noted that the churches—St Peter’s (now St Mary’s the Less) and St Andrew’s the Great—were early known as *without the Gate*; and so with several similar expressions.





Cambridge, from the Hills Road (1820).



Cambridge, from the Trumpington Ford (1809).



## CHAPTER II

## THE ROAD OUTSIDE THE BARNWELL GATE

The Barnwell Gate<sup>1</sup> guarded the street that led from the Bridge and the Castle on the north, and it looked on the road that ran towards the Gog-Magog Hills on the south-east.

This road "outside the Barnwell gate" (now known as St Andrew's Street, Regent Street and Hills Road) was formerly called by various names: the Hadstock Road, the Friars' and Preachers' Street or the Preachers' Street, the High Street, the King's Way, "the great street outside Barnwell gate"; while on later maps it (or the continuation of it) is styled the Linton Road, or the road to Colchester, or the road towards the Gog-Magog Hills.

Another name by which this road has been called is the *Via Devana*. This looks back to Roman times, although the actual title was first applied to it by the Rev. C. Mason, who was Woodwardian Professor from 1734 to 1762. The following account<sup>2</sup> of it was contributed by Bishop Bennet to Lysons's *Cambridgeshire*, published in 1810:

"This great Roman way, which connected the colonies of Colchester and Chester, enters Cambridgeshire from Withersfield in Suffolk, bearing nearly from east to west, passes through Horseheath Park, leaving Balsham on its right, crosses the Ikeneld Street, and proceeds very straight over the open country: with its crest highly raised and visible, to Gogmagog hills; it descends the hills, having two huge barrows ["the Twopenny Loaves"] close on its left, in a line with Worts's causeway, and bending a little to avoid the deep part of the fen, (just at the point where the Linton Road falls in), the Roman road keeping its line, while the causeway declines

<sup>1</sup> "Quae etiam quod Barnwellum pagum respicit, Barnewellina porta nominatur." Caius, *u.s.* p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> *Magna Britannia*, ii, pp. 44. 45.

to the right, they become separated; and the former proceeds along the lands to the first old enclosure, where it has the appearance of throwing off a branch to the village of Grantchester, at Red Cross; and keeping on the highest land, between the two fens of Cherry-Hinton and Shelford, continues its course down St Andrew's Street, the church of that name standing upon it, in a direct line by Trinity church, to the river, and the great south-east gate of the Roman station beyond it; and there is some reason to think a bridge was constructed here for the accommodation of travellers. Indeed the ingenious Mr Essex in building the modern bridge is said to have discovered the foundation of one, which had been raised here in very early times, and which he conceived to be of Roman workmanship."

Bishop Bennet proceeds to trace the course of the *Via Devana* towards Leicester and Chester.

This description was written before the enclosure and drainage of the lands, and therefore at a time when the ridge of the Roman road was doubtless to be easily observed.

These words of Bishop Bennet have been amplified by the late Professor Babington<sup>1</sup> and by subsequent writers, who have reported on exposures of the Roman road at various times and at various places between "the Twopenny Loaves" and the Castle. When the Archaeological Institute visited Cambridge in July 1854, the distinguished antiquary and botanist just mentioned published a map on which the *Via Devana* was represented as having run on the west of the present road along the whole distance named in the last sentence.

Anyone who stands at the point on the Gog-Magog Hills where the road makes the bend referred to above, and who looks across beyond the Castle Hill, to where the *Via Devana* continues its northern course, can imagine how the Hinton marshes and moors in former days prevented the straight course of the Roman road, and mark the deviating ridge that separated it from the western fen which then lay on the Shelford side.

Parallel with this old Roman road, as often happens, runs a modern road. This was greatly improved under the provisions of the will<sup>2</sup> of William Worts, M.A., of St Catharine's

<sup>1</sup> *Ancient Cambridgeshire*, by Prof. C. C. Babington, pp. 29, etc.

<sup>2</sup> *Endowments of the Univ. of Camb.*, J. W. Clark, M.A., 1904, pp. 91, 92.

College, who died in 1709. This benefactor, besides other bequests to the University, desired that £1500 should "be applied to the making a Calcey or Causeway from Emmanuel College to Hogmagog, *alias* Gogmagog Hills"; he further ordered that, "if there be occasion, an Act of Parliament may be procured for the making and securing that road."

Accordingly, in the words of Mr Salmon (who in 1748 published *A Foreigner's Companion through the Universities*), "a Causeway was cast up to Gogmagog Hills, four miles east of Cambridge, whither Gentlemen ride out clean in the depth of Winter." From these Hills (the Guide adds) "there is a fine Carpet-way for several miles, particularly towards Newmarket."

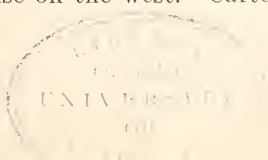
"Worts's Causeway" long continued to be "the most frequented road amongst the members of the University." Henry Gunning, in his *Reminiscences*, gives an amusing account of an adventure hereon of a well-known don, Dr Kipling, whose "principal relaxation was a daily ride to the *Hills*."

The same vivacious writer tells us of the marshes which lay to the east of the Causeway.

"If you started," he says, "from the other corner of Parker's Piece, you came to Cherryhinton Fen; from thence to Teversham, Quy, Bottisham, and Swaffham Fens. In taking this beat, you met with great varieties of wild-fowl, bitterns, plovers of every description, ruffs and reeves, and not unfrequently pheasants. If you did not go very near the mansions of the few country gentlemen who resided in the neighbourhood, you met with no interruption. You scarcely ever saw the gamekeeper, but met with a great number of young lads, who were on the look-out for sportsmen from the University, whose game they carried, and to whom they furnished long poles, to enable them to leap those very wide ditches which intersected the Fens in every direction."

Gunning goes on to speak of the draining of these Fens and of the reclamation of "thousands and tens of thousands of acres of land."

To return to our Road, it may be remarked that, in the times of which we have been speaking in the last two or three pages, as at the date when Loggan drew his "plan of Cambridge" in 1688, there were few houses beyond Emmanuel on the east side and the Spinning House on the west. Carter, in



his *History*<sup>1</sup>, describes the Bridewell just mentioned as “pleasantly near the fields, at the south end of the parish of St Andrew the Great.” Indeed the neighbourhood of Emmanuel College was long called “the town’s end.”

Beyond this part, all was open country. “The road had broad strips of grass on each side. On the east side (of what is now called Regent Street) Parker’s land did not run quite up to the road; nor did St Thomas’s Leys (now called Downing College grounds) run up to the ground on the other side; but there were two strips left of roadside ground which were probably considered waste ground. Some of this is said to have been gradually occupied by squatters, who inclosed patches, or put up buildings which remained undisturbed long enough for them to claim a right of ownership.” We shall later on have a strange tale to tell of the disposal of these wayside grounds; and the same may be said of the broad strips on either side of the Hills Road further to the south.

But we must return to earlier times, when the Barnwell Gate was still standing, or even before it was erected.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the County of Cambridge*, Edmund Carter, p. 19.

## CHAPTER III

### EARLY BUILDINGS OUTSIDE THE BARNWELL GATE

Outside the town of Cambridge, in early days, stretched on all sides the Open Fields. On the east and south, for instance, lay the Barnwell lands, reaching from Trumpington Ford (a mile away from the centre of the borough on the London road) across to the little river Stour, which ran between them and Ditton. As usual, these fields were divided into three portions, of which (or, at least, of two of which) we shall speak in detail later on.

To approach these lands, the chief route was from the Great Bridge, passing Holy Trinity Church and leading into the road to the Hills on the south-east. Along this road passed continually the many inhabitants who possessed strips in the open fields. Fortunate were any of them who had ground near the town and bordering on the road; such could, if desirous, erect a barn or a dwelling-place.

In front of the space where, as we have indicated<sup>1</sup>, the Barnwell Gate was placed, there ran a slight depression (near where the Post Office now stands and along what is at present called Hobson Street). Of this the constructors of the Ditch availed themselves, either in the days of King John or in the jubilee year of his son Henry III.

Our business is with the road and district outside the Barnwell Gate.

The earliest erection of importance in this suburb was the building of the Church of St Andrew the Great. The date of

<sup>1</sup> See page 3.

the foundation<sup>1</sup> thereof is not known; but in an old episcopal Register<sup>2</sup> at Ely there is an allusion to a certain "John" as Chaplain here about the year 1200; while, from the same cartulary, we learn that about a quarter of a century later, during the episcopate of Geoffrey de Burgh (1225-1229), the advowson of the Church was given to the Priory of Ely by Absalon, the son of Algar, who was then the Rector and the Patron of the same. The Bishop shortly afterwards appropriated the Church to the augmentation of the office of the sacrist at the said convent. Henceforth in the receipts<sup>3</sup> of that official appear year by year certain sums of money from the funds of St Andrew's Church. This income was derived from a grange, which apparently stood either on the east side of the main road, just to the south of the present site of Emmanuel College, or on part of the present site of Christ's College.

It is not necessary here to recount the subsequent history of the Church; nor to tell of the rebuilding thereof soon after 1650, chiefly through the munificence of Christopher Rose, a well-known alderman of the borough; nor to refer to the replacement of this by the present edifice, erected by subscription about the year 1843, and designed by Mr Ambrose Poynter, who was also the perpetrator of Christ Church and St Paul's!

Doubtless near the Church and by the sides of the road outside the Barnwell Gate, there were springing up various tenements whose inhabitants worshipped at St Andrew's.

But the most notable feature in the new parish was the settlement of the Dominican Friars. Members of this Order first arrived in England in the year 1221; how soon they appeared in Cambridge is not recorded; but a royal grant<sup>4</sup>, dated June 14th, 1238, assists the building of their chapel;

<sup>1</sup> If, which is not improbable, this church is that referred to in *Domesday Book*, as situated in the Fourth ward of Cambridge, and belonging to the Ely Ecclesiastical authorities, the foundation of Great St Andrew's must be placed in Saxon days.

<sup>2</sup> *Regist. Episc. Elien. M.* pp. 175, etc.; Benthams's *Ely*, p. 146.

<sup>3</sup> Chapman. *Sacrist Rolls*, i, pp. 120-1; Benthams, p. 127.

<sup>4</sup> *Close Rolls*, 22 Hen. III, June 14th.



while a writ<sup>1</sup>, two years later, is worded as if they had been settled here for some years. The *Hundred Rolls*<sup>2</sup>, which record the results of the Great Inquisition taken in 7 Edward I (1278 or 9), speak of their place as containing "8 acres of land and more in length and breadth, *in which place were accustomed to be divers mansions in which many inhabited* who were wont to be geldable and aiding to the town." The words italicised might suggest that the street was somewhat thickly inhabited, but the expression was a customary phrase and must not be taken literally. It was repeated word for word in the report as to the Franciscans in the same *Rolls*.

It is stated by Leland<sup>3</sup> that the house of the Friars Preachers (or Black Friars, as the Dominicans were also called) was "foundid in her widohod" by Alice, widow of Robert de Vere, fifth earl of Oxford; but, as this nobleman did not die till the year 1296, there must be some mistake: though doubtless the lady was a benefactress of the Friars.

The royal grant in 1238, mentioned above, ordered three oaks from the forest of Wanberg to be given to the Friars Preachers for the building of their chapel; and the writ of 1240 "commanded the sheriff of the county to permit them to enelose the Lane which lay on the south part next their chapel, for the enlargement of their cemetery, they giving up in recompense the like quantity in length and breadth of their own ground, it having been found by inquisition that this would not be to the damage of the town of Cambridge, but rather to the convenience thereof." As pointed out below, this lane must have been a continuation of "Dowdivers Lane" (now Downing Street) and must have led on to Barnwell. In its stead, the Dominicans doubtless gave what is now Emmanuel Lane.

In the twenty-first year of Edward I (1292-3), the Black Friars obtained from William de la Haye<sup>4</sup> two acres of land with the appurtenances thereof, contiguous to their grounds. This land had formerly belonged to Adam Eliot, a well-known

<sup>1</sup> *Close Rolls*, 24 Hen. III, April 17th.

<sup>2</sup> *Hundred Rolls*, ii, p. 360.

<sup>3</sup> Leland, *Itinerary*, ed. Hearne, vi, 38.

<sup>4</sup> *Borough Report*, 1850, p. 52.

Cambridge citizen, who had paid "to the King every year at the feast of St Michael, the rent of a penny per annum, by the hands of the King's bailiffs of the town."

We need not here trace the history of this celebrated monastery, further than to remark that it was already so established that its Prior, William Ringesham<sup>1</sup>, was accorded his degree as Doctor of Divinity about the year 1262. It was dissolved in 1538, and was shortly afterwards granted<sup>2</sup> by Henry VIII to Edward Elrington and Humphrey Metcalfe. The foundation of Emmanuel College, in its stead, in 1583-4, will be described later on.

On the west side of the road, nearly opposite to the monastery of the Black Friars, stood a building which in 1283 was given<sup>3</sup> by Hugh de Balsham, Bishop of Ely, to St John's Hospital as part of the compensation for the loss suffered by the removal of his scholars to the newly-founded Peterhouse. In the foundation deed of our senior College the tenement is described as "hospicium contra fratres predicatorum."

Caius, in his *History*<sup>4</sup> written nearly 300 years after this transfer, calls the building "Rudd's Hostel," and says that it stood a little beyond the church of the Friars Preachers, but on the other side of the street. He places it last in his list of hostels. Richard Parker<sup>5</sup>, writing in the year 1622, says that "it is now become *the Castle Inn*"; Fuller<sup>6</sup> repeats this statement; and indeed the building is still known as "Ye Olde Castel." It is now the property of Corpus Christi College.

To the College just named was bequeathed<sup>7</sup>, in the year 1393, another Hostel (St Nicholas's) on the town side of the convent of the Black Friars, but the consideration of this may

<sup>1</sup> *Monasticon Anglicanum*, Dugdale-Stevens, 1723, ii, 193.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Emmanuel College*, E. S. Shuckburgh, p. 3. [It may be noted that there had been a contemplated grant of the site of the Black Friars to Dr Lee for the Master and Fellows of St Nicholas's Hostel. See *8th Report* of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records, Appendix ii, 14.]

<sup>3</sup> *Documents*, Univ. Comm. 1852, ii, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Hist. Cant. Acad. Lib.* i, p. 50.

<sup>5</sup> *History and Antiquities of Univ. of Cambridge*, by Richard Parker, 1622, p. 32.

<sup>6</sup> *Hist.* ed. Prickett and Wright, p. 60.

<sup>7</sup> Masters, *History C.C.C.*, p. 34.

be postponed to the section on Academic Buildings outside the Barnwell Gate.

In estimating the number of houses on the road outside the Barnwell Gate at the period to which we have just been alluding, we have the advantage of being able to consult the celebrated *Hundred Rolls*, which report the outcome of the Great Inquisition made by order of Edward I in the years 1278-9. This investigation records in special detail the state of Cambridge at that date, and from it we learn that there were comparatively few<sup>1</sup> messuages situated on the road which we are describing. Indeed not a dozen "owners of houses, &c., or to speak more nicely, freeholders who held houses in demesne," are scheduled. So that there must be great exaggeration in the phrase quoted above from the same *Rolls*, which affirmed of the site upon which the Dominican Monastery had been built, that "divers mansions, in which many inhabited," had been cleared away.

It must be remembered that, in mediaeval times, even in the town proper within the Ditch, still more in such a suburb as we are considering, the houses were not always packed closely together, they had frequently their gardens, their orchards or their paddocks; they were often called granges or curtilages: they had their barns and their courtyards. Michael Grange, for instance, was "a messuage and farm abutting upon the High Street east, and upon the field called St Thomas's Leas (otherwise Swinecroft) west." In its barn the grain grown upon its "dole" of fourteen acres was stored. It was for some three centuries the property of Michael House, one of the Hostels which went to the foundation of Trinity College. We shall see how this College in 1613 handed it over to the Corporation in exchange for Garret Hostel Green, etc. The estate is still in the hands of the town council. Of another

<sup>1</sup> The long list of charters printed by the Master of Jesus, in his *Priory of St Radegund*, C.A.S. xxxi, pp. 98 to 104, might seem to point to a different conclusion; for about thirty or forty records of property, belonging to the Nuns and situated in Great St Andrew's parish, are given. But it must be remembered that these range over more than two centuries, that a number of them relate only to land, and that some of the charters doubtless refer to the same property.

tenement in St Andrew's parish, which touched upon the Ditch, we are told (in a deed<sup>1</sup> still in the possession of Jesus College) that the Nuns of St Radegund, to whom it belonged, "supplied their tenant after wheat harvest with one acre of wheat-straw, and allowed him to cut down trees to repair the premises, planting others in their place."

The long rows of houses, shown in the map prefixed to Fuller's *History of Cambridge* in 1634, must not be supposed to represent the true condition of things in mediaeval times, nor perhaps even at the date of the engraving.

<sup>1</sup> *The Priory of St Radegund*, Arthur Gray, M.A., p. 102.

## CHAPTER IV

### SIDE STREETS AND LANES

Allusion has hitherto chiefly been made to "the great street outside Barnwell Gate," which was known, as we have seen, by such names as the Preachers' Street, the High Street, the road to the Hills, to Hadstock, Linton, etc.

But it must not be forgotten that there were other streets and lanes, which must be referred to.

On the east side, immediately after leaving the Gate and crossing the Ditch, there was a lane (now known as Hobson Street) which ran almost parallel to the Ditch. "Wallis Lane" it was called, and on its east side were certain tenements and closes, which are mentioned in various deeds and which will be specially referred to when the foundation and extension of Christ's College is dealt with.

About seventy yards further along the main street, we come to what is now called Christ's Lane. This has been known by a variety of names. It was generally called "the Lane to Hinton,"—"the lane leading from St Andrew's Church towards Hintune"—it was also, not unfrequently, unpleasantly known as Rokislane (i.e. Rogues' Lane) and as Hangman's Lane. Other names for it were St Nicholas's Lane, and (early in the nineteenth century) Emmanuel Back Lane and George Street. It gradually however acquired its present title, Christ's Lane.

Proceeding southwards we come to Preachers' Lane, or Blackfriars' Lane, or as at present Emmanuel Lane. The laying out of this may be dated from the following extract from the *Close Rolls* for the year 1240.

“Henry III, by writ dated the 17th of April, the 24th year of his reign, commanded the sheriff of the county to permit the Friars Preachers of Cambridge to enclose the Lane (*vicus*) which lay on the south part next their Church, for the enlargement of their cemetery, they giving up in recompense the like quantity in length and breadth of their own ground, it having been found by Inquisition that this would not be to the damage of the town of Cambridge, but rather to the convenience thereof.”

The lane thus “enclosed on the south part next the Church” of the Dominicans must, of course, have been a continuation of the lane now called Downing Street—the many names whereof will be referred to when we come to the other side of the main street. The lane, doubtless, led right across to the Newmarket Road.

The only other lane on the east side of Preachers’ Street going towards the south was that which bounds the fields now known as Parker’s Piece. This is described in an old Field Book<sup>1</sup> as “King’s Lane, in Middlefield, which lane, from Hinton Way, leadeth to Dawe’s Cross.” This cross stood near the site of the old poplar tree at what is now called Hyde Park Corner. King’s Lane was afterwards known as Gravel Pit Road.

Crossing the main road, King’s Lane was continued as “Deepway” (now Lensfield Road), “leading to the stone bridge by the Spital.” The ditches which lined this highway are mentioned in various deeds for many centuries. When the water-course, known as the New River, was formed, and “a cut” was made from the conduit-head along the Deepway and towards Emmanuel and Christ’s, the lane obtained the name of Conduit Road.

Continuing now northwards along Regent Street, we come to the present Downing Street. This well-known lane ran east from the London Road outside the Trumpington Gate, and was, as we have seen, originally continued through the middle of the Black Friars’ Monastery (i.e. through the present Chapel Court of Emmanuel) on towards the Newmarket Road. It was called of old by various names, such as Dowdivers Lane (Deus Dewers Lane, Duzedewers Lane, etc.), and Langreth Lane, or

<sup>1</sup> Alderman Wm. Bright’s *Old Field Book*, 1575, formerly in the chest of Great St Andrew’s Church (Bowtell MSS. vol. iii, p. 251).

Langer Lane. "Landgrytheslane," Professor Maitland<sup>1</sup> wrote it; adding "Is not this the limit of the ordinary land-peace? Within the ditch the stricter Burhgrið reigns. If this" (said the lamented Professor) "be the true explanation, both name and limit should be very ancient."

Later names<sup>2</sup> of this "long lane" are the lane from the Mills to Emmanuel, Hoghill Lane, Bird-bolt Lane, Pembroke Street, Downing Street, etc.

<sup>1</sup> *Township and Borough*, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> Some of these names are of course quite modern. This important side street need not be further dwelt upon, nor need further allusion be made to Meeting House Lane, or Downing Place, on the south, or to St Tibb's Row on the north, with the former parochial workhouse of Great St Andrew's, which still stands.



## CHAPTER V

## WAYSIDE CROSSES

In describing the lane called "Deepway" between the London Road and the Hadstock Way and known as "King's Lane" from the latter road to Hinton Way, mention was made of a Cross (called *Dawe's Cross*) which stood at what is now known as Hyde Park Corner.

Dawe's Cross is often mentioned in ancient deeds, and in an old Field Book<sup>1</sup>, which formerly belonged to the vestry of the Church of St Andrew the Great, there was a most interesting representation of it. This is here reproduced (by kind permission of the Downing authorities) from a copy in the celebrated Bowtell MSS.

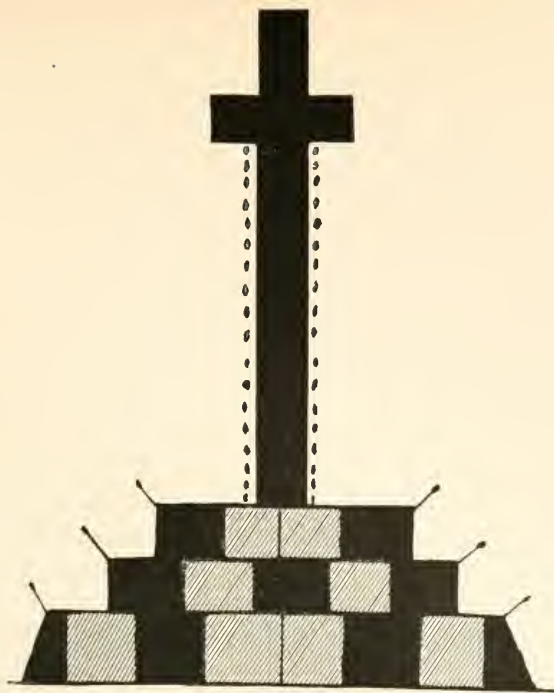
About a quarter of a mile further south along the Hadstock Road, on the east side, just beyond the present milestone, stood another Cross, known as "the Stone Cross." This is marked on Baker's Map of Cambridge, published in 1834.

On the Hinton Way, at about the same distance from the town as the Cross just mentioned, there was in mediaeval times another wayside Cross, called "the Hinton Cross." There are not infrequent allusions to this in old Field Books.

These last two Crosses stood, of course, on the highways west and east of Middlefield.

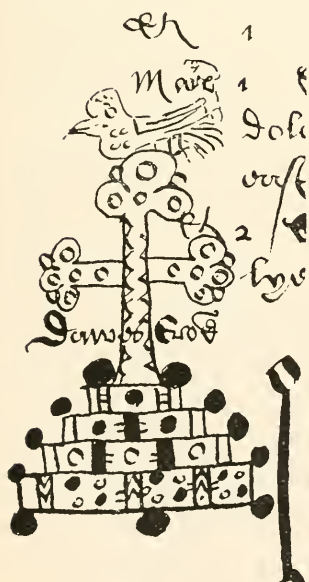
<sup>1</sup> See Bowtell MSS. iii, p. 251.





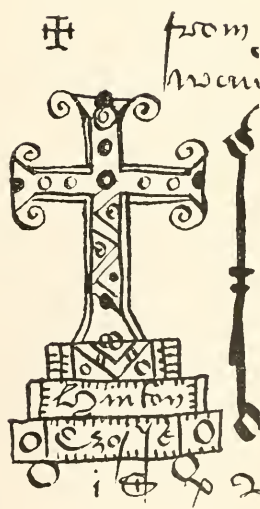
Dawe's Cross.

(From an old Field Book, formerly belonging to Great St Andrew's Church.)



Dawe's Cross.

(From an old Field Book at Peterhouse.)



Hinton Cross.

(From an old Field Book at Peterhouse.)

## CHAPTER VI

### ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

Reference has already<sup>1</sup> been made to "Rudd's Hostel," formerly the property of St John's Hospital, and a glance has been given to another Hostel, that of St Nicholas.

A section must now be devoted to the academic buildings which grew up on either side of Preachers' Street.

As we are dealing with external structures, rather than with the internal history of these institutions, it is not necessary to dwell further upon the Dominican Monastery, upon its church or its library—upon the share of its Priors and Friars in University affairs, or upon their quarrels with the academic authorities. Only it should be remembered that during three centuries the convent of the Friars Preachers was the chief building in the street to which they gave their name. The House surrendered<sup>2</sup> to King Henry VIII and was dissolved in the year 1538; there being then fifteen Black Friars besides the Prior.

Nor need anything additional be said about "Rudd's Hostel," nearly opposite to the Dominican buildings, for though it was somewhat elaborately presented by Bishop Hugh of Balsham to the Hospital of St John, and though it was called a "Hostel" till the days of Dr Caius, yet there is no scholastic history attached to it; and it soon passed out of the hands of the Augustinian brethren and perhaps quite early became, as it still remains, an "Inn" in the more modern sense; it is now, of course, known as "Ye Olde Castel" Inn.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Cooper's *Annals*, i, p. 392.

A more celebrated Hostel, St Nicholas's, stood on the east side of the street, between the Friary and the site of the present Christ's College. The exact position of the Hostel is thus set forth in a conveyance<sup>1</sup> dated 1585:

"all that mesuage tenemente or Inne comonlye called St Nicholas hostell with all buildinges yardes gardens groundes and hereditamentes to the same belonginge scituat lienge and beinge in the parisshe of St Andrewe without Barnwell gates in Cambridge aforsaid betweene the tenemente late of John Adam on the one partie and the tenemente called the Chequer and a tenemente of Tho: Bredon on the other partie the one hedd thereof abuttinge upon the Quenes highway called Preehers strete and the other upon the Quenes highwaye leadinge towards Barnwell."

This date is of course late, but the abutments are quoted in detail, because the site of this Hostel has been wrongly given by various authorities. Fuller, for instance, in his *History of Cambridge*<sup>2</sup>, says it was "over against Christ's College, where now a private house with the public name of the *Brazen George*"; Masters, in his *History of Corpus*<sup>3</sup>, alludes to it as "abutting upon the *George*"; while Willis and Clark, in their *Architectural History*<sup>4</sup>, place it at "the corner" of St Andrew's Street and Emmanuel Lane. These are all wrong.

The site is distinctly noted in Lyne's *Map of Cambridge*, published in the year 1574.

The earliest allusion to St Nicholas's Hostel which the present writer has met with, occurs in the will of Thomas Lolleworth<sup>5</sup>, of Cambridge, bearing date 1393. This citizen bequeathed the whole of his messuages in our town to the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, and amongst them was our Hostel.

In the following century, from the will<sup>6</sup> (dated 30 August, 1459) of another Cambridge burgess, Richard Andrewe, *alias* Spicer, we find that various properties were left to Queens' College; and in an inventory of these benefactions, compiled

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Willis and Clark's *Architectural History*, ii, pp. 692-3.

<sup>2</sup> Ed. Prickett and Wright, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. C.C.C.*, p. 34.

<sup>4</sup> Willis and Clark, *u.s.*, i, p. xxvii.

<sup>5</sup> Masters, *Hist. C.C.C.*, p. 34.

<sup>6</sup> *History of Queens' College*, W. G. Searle, M.A., i, p. 66.

in the year 1472, one of them is said to be the Hostel of St Nicholas in St Andrew's Parish.

It should be stated that there had been another Hostel of St Nicholas, situated in Milne Street, in the parish of St John Zachary, which had been purchased of Simon Dallyng, clerk, Keeper of Trinity Hall, by Henry VI, as part of the site of King's College. It has been conjectured<sup>1</sup> that the students of this Hostel migrated to the building in Preachers' Street, of which we are speaking, carrying their name with them.

It is not here necessary to dwell upon the history of this Hostel—upon its great reputation in connection with legal studies; it was perhaps the chief among the *Juristae*; and a long list of distinguished names of its alumni might be recorded. Fuller<sup>2</sup>, with his usual quaintness, says: "the Scholars hereof, as eminent for hard studying, so infamous for their brawlings by night."

A proposal to transfer the Hostel to the site of the dissolved Black Friars has been mentioned on p. 12.

We pass on to post-Reformation times. In the year 1582, the building was in the possession of Simon Watson<sup>3</sup>, and, three years later, Sir Henry Killigrew<sup>4</sup> purchased it for the sum of £140, in order that a suitable Lodge might be made for Dr Laurence Chaderton, the first Master of the newly founded Emmanuel College.

Strange to say, by a curious mistake, in William Smith's pretty line Plan of Cambridge issued (after Lyne) in 1588, the Parish Church is called *St Nicholas*<sup>5</sup>. It may be added that there was a St Nicholas's Chapel in the Church (of Great St Andrew).

Another building, which was used as a Hostel or Inn for students, was known as the Brazen George<sup>6</sup>. It was situate on

<sup>1</sup> Willis and Clark, *u.s.*, i, p. xxvii.

<sup>2</sup> *History*, ed. Prickett and Wright, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> Cooper's *Memorials*, iii, p. 215.

Willis and Clark, *u.s.*, ii, pp. 692-3.

<sup>5</sup> A church dedicated to St Nicholas formerly stood on part of the site of King's College and was demolished by Henry VI at the foundation of his college. (See Caius, *History*, pp. 67 and 120, and Fuller, *History*, p. 150.)

<sup>6</sup> *History of St John's College*, Baker-Mayor, i, pp. 92, 355.

the west side of the main street, to the south of St Andrew's Church (where the Post Office formerly stood—the clock whereof still remains on the outside of the premises, now occupied by Messrs Coote & Warren).

In the reign of Henry VI (2 February, 1445–6) it became the property of Geoffrey Neville, who had sold his house (wherein students dwelt) to the King for the site of King's College, on condition of another equally good being found for him.

The Brazen George was given to Christ's College by its third Master (1511–17) Dr Thomas Thompson<sup>1</sup>, who had been a member of Pembroke. In the deed the abuttals are as follows: the Church on the north, the lands of Thomas Bracebridge (*alias* Barber) on the south and east, and “the common ditche called the Kynges ditche on the west.”

(It may be added that Dr Thompson also gave to the College a house adjacent to the Brazen George, which was named from successive tenants “Scocroft's” and “Troilus Atkinson's.”)

The Brazen George was long used as a dwelling-place for some of the scholars of Christ's, “and ye Gates there were shut and open'd Morning and Evening constantly as ye College gates were.” In the Report<sup>2</sup> to Archbishop Laud dated 1636, it is stated of Christ's College:

“Hard by this House is a town Inn (they call it the Brazen George) wherein many of these Schollers live lodge and study, and yet the statutes of the Universitie require that none lodge out of the Colledge where no Governour or tutor can looke after their pupills as they ought.”

Edmund Carter, in his *History of the University of Cambridge*<sup>3</sup>, in a list of the Inns and Hostels, includes “St Michael's Hostel, now the Brazen-George-yard, in St Andrew's,” and Mr C. H. Cooper<sup>4</sup> repeats the statement, adding: “it was apparently disused as a Hostel before 1521.” But neither of these writers gives his authority for the use of the name “St Michael's.”

We have seen that for long the Brazen George was intimately connected with Christ's, and we naturally now cross from the

<sup>1</sup> *History of Christ's College*, J. Peile, Litt.D., p. 42.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.* p. 155.

<sup>3</sup> *History*, p. 16.

<sup>4</sup> *Memorials of Cambridge*, iii, p. 215.

west of the street to that renowned College on the opposite side.

But we have first to deal with an older academical building. We have already seen<sup>1</sup> that one or two scholastic establishments displaced by Henry VI for the site of his great College had migrated to our neighbourhood. We must now mention the fact that Henry had similarly transplanted a school or college of Grammar which William Bingham<sup>2</sup> had about 1439 erected near Clare College. The title of the new building—"God's House"—was carried with it to the land acquired just outside Barnwell Gate. Henry VI purposed to do much for this new foundation. As Fuller<sup>3</sup> puts it: "This King had an intention (had not deprivation, a civil death, prevented him) to advance the scholars of this foundation to the full number of sixty, though (a great fall) never more than four lived there for lack of maintenance." We must not however follow the welfare—or rather the poverty—of the new "God's House" in Preachers' Street, but proceed to relate (still quoting Fuller) how "the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby (accounting herself, as of the Lancastrian line, heir to all King Henry's godly intentions), only altered the name from God's House to Christ's College, and (in the year 1505) made up the number, viz. one master, twelve fellows, forty-seven scholars, in all sixty."

We must not here follow the fortunes of the illustrious house, with which are connected the names of Milton, of Darwin, and of many other men of renown.

We must only record the acquisition of the plots of ground upon which the College was founded and has grown. Mr J. W. Clark, in that monumental work—Willis and Clark's *Architectural History*<sup>4</sup> of the University of Cambridge—treats this question admirably and in great detail, illustrating his description with an elaborate plan. He describes the seven long strips of land which were acquired, six of which had their narrow western end abutting on Preachers' Street, and

<sup>1</sup> See p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Christ's College*, J. Peile, Litt.D., pp. 1, etc.

<sup>3</sup> *History*, ed. Prickett and Wright, p. 181.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. ii, pp. 187, etc., and vol. iv, Christ's College, Fig. 1.



extended eastward about 90 or 100 yards to a water-course which, though covered up, still runs through the second court. The first two strips had been purchased by William Bingham in the years 1446 and 1448 from the abbeyes of Titley and of Denny. The plot to the north was acquired by William Fallan, the third Proctor or Master of God's House, from William Herry's in 1448; while ten years later William Basset, the fourth Master, bought of Brian Fishwick, heir of John Fishwick a University bedell, two strips to the south, one next the Titley piece, and the other at the corner of the lane leading towards Hinton. Basset, a few years later (in 1474) acquired the intervening strip from the Priory of St Edmund of Sempington. Mr J. W. Clark proceeds to quote deeds relating to the purchase of other adjacent properties, until the whole of the present site of Christ's College had been acquired.

It only remains—in this section on the scholastic buildings outside the Barnwell Gate—to record the foundation of Emmanuel College, as the ultimate inheritor of the Dominican buildings and grounds.

After the surrender of the Black Friars' Monastery in 1538 to Henry VIII, that monarch (in 1544) granted<sup>1</sup> the premises to Edward Elrington and Humphrey Metcalfe, from whom they passed in the following year to William Sherwood, whose son George granted them in 1581 to Robert Taylor, from whom they were acquired in 1583 by Richard Culverwell and Laurence Chaderton, his brother-in-law. The last named had already been nominated by Sir Walter Mildmay to the mastership of the College which he was about to found. On November 23rd, 1583, the brothers-in-law conveyed to Sir Walter

“all that the scite, circuit, ambulance, and precinct of the late Priory of Fryers preachers commonly called the blackfryers within the town of Cambridge. . . and all mesuages, houses, buildinges, barnes, stables, dove-houses, orchardes, gardens, pondes, stewes, waters, lande, and soyle within the said scite. . . . And all the walles of stone, brick, and other thinges composinge and enclosinge the said scite. . . .”

What changes had already—during the forty and more years—taken place in the buildings, etc. is not known; doubtless

<sup>1</sup> *History of Emmanuel College*, E. S. Shuckburgh, Litt.D., pp. 3, etc.

the usual stripping of lead and other spoliations had occurred at an early date, and probably various alterations had been made during the generation while the Sherwoods made their dwelling-place here; but, at the foundation of Emmanuel, certain parts of the monastery seem to have been worked into the new establishment. Puritan feeling was shown by the conversion of the Friars' Church into the new dining-hall; while the refectory of the old convent was repaired and fitted up as a Chapel, with chambers above it. The architect employed was Ralph Symons, whose portrait is in the gallery, and who had done much work in connection with Trinity and St John's. The chief entrance to the College was in the middle of a wall facing Emmanuel Lane.

It may be noted that, in consideration of Ralph Symons's services to Emmanuel, an advantageous lease<sup>1</sup> of the house just north of the College was granted to him in 1586. The house demised stood at the north corner of Preachers' Street and Emmanuel Lane:

"Betweene the tenement called the Antelopp towards the northe, and the comon lane leading by the wall of the Black Fryers now Emmanuel College on the southe, and the west parte abutteth upon...Preachers Streete, and the part towards the east on the tenement or ground belonging to St John's College."

The corner house above described was known as Roxton Hall in the next century, and it adjoined certain houses which together formed a range called the Pensionary.

<sup>1</sup> Willis and Clark, *Architectural History*, ii, pp. 692-3.



## CHAPTER VII

### LATER BUILDINGS

The word "later" is, of course, an elastic term; and the writer asks to be pardoned if, in the same chapter—for convenience' sake—he names certain buildings and houses which are associated with different dates and even with different centuries.

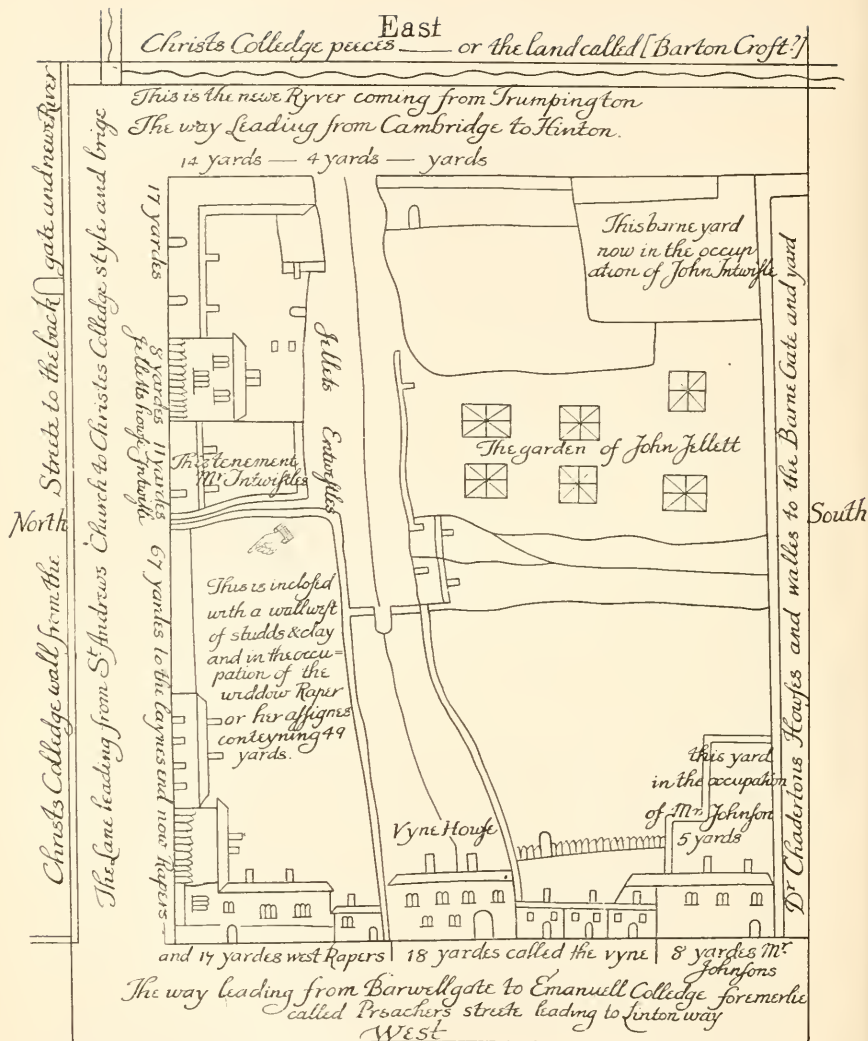
To begin, by the Barnwell Gate, on the east side: reference has already been made to the messuages and plots of ground which were absorbed at the foundation of Christ's College, or rather of God's House. These, as has been said, are given with such detail in Willis and Clark's *Architectural History*, that we may pass on to the group of buildings next, south.

Between what are now Christ's Lane and Emmanuel Lane (where are at present some fourteen houses, viz. Nos. 70 to 57 of St Andrew's Street), there stood in ancient times chiefly a number of small cottages, a number varying at different dates.

We print on the following page, by the kind permission of the Bursar of Emmanuel, a curious old plan (dated 1635) of the first 129 feet of the frontage (i.e. from No. 70 to No. 65). None of the buildings here pictured (except perhaps Vine House) was of any importance; all of those were Radegund property. It will be noticed that they are said to be bounded on the south by "Dr Chaderton's house, etc."

This brings us, therefore, to the building known formerly as "St Nicholas's *Hostel*," which has been described in detail in a former section. This is now occupied by Mr Ginn's offices, Nos. 64 and 63 St Andrew's Street.

Next come the present Nos. 62 and 61, now used as *University Offices*. We have seen, in giving the abutments of



The Vine Estate.  
(From John Jellett's Terrier, 1635.)

St Nicholas's Hostel in the year 1585, that on the south stood "the Chequer"; this (No. 62) and the adjacent tenement were in 1688 in the possession of Dr Christopher Greene, the Professor of Physic (who held considerable property in Cambridge); and members of his family owned it for many years. In the middle of the eighteenth century it was the residence of Mr Richard Whish, a celebrated Cambridge citizen, who under somewhat peculiar circumstances (characteristically recorded by Cole) amassed a large fortune.

It need only be added that the present lofty erection was built by a former Alderman, after whom it was known as "Rance's Folly."

Where Nos. 60 and 59 now stand were formerly two or three small tenements—one of which was long called "the Three Archers."

The site of No. 58 has an interesting history. It has belonged for centuries to St John's. In the year 1532 we learn, from an account in the archives of that College, that there were here three cottages "leased to Richard Stronge, slayer, of Cambridge." The abutments are thus given: "on a tenement belonging to Ely Rectory on the south; on a garden belonging to Dr Lee to the north; on the highway to the west; and on a garden belonging to the college to the east." A series of leases in the bursary of St John's shows the names of the occupiers of these cottages during the next two centuries. We pass on to the year 1743, when they were leased to the Rev. John Mickleborough, a fellow of Corpus, who was Professor of Chemistry in the University and who held the livings of St Andrew the Great and Landbeach. This gentleman, after his marriage, demolished the cottages and built a mansion which is doubtless the substantial house now numbered 58. Since the death of Mr Mickleborough in 1756, this has been in the hands of well-known medical men; the first of whom was Mr Thomas Thackeray. This doctor belonged to a family renowned in classical, scholastic, medical, military and literary circles. He married Lydia, daughter of his neighbour, Mr Whish; this lady survived her husband for many years, and lived in the house until her death in the year 1830.

Another Miss Whish became the wife of Francis Gunning, father of the esquire-bedell, in whose racy *Reminiscences* may be read various allusions to the Thackeray family. Mr Thomas Thackeray's eldest son, William Makepeace Thackeray, was a renowned physician in the city of Chester; another son, Frederick, succeeded his father in the Cambridge home and practice; his daughter Jane married Professor George Pryme, who likewise published *Reminiscences*, wherein may be seen interesting references to the family. Mr Thomas Thackeray's nephews included the celebrated General Frederick Rennell Thackeray, Dr George Thackeray, Provost of King's (1814 to 1850), and Richmond, father of the novelist William Makepeace Thackeray. Other interesting details might be given. Mr Carter, the surgeon, succeeded Mr Frederick Thackeray; and was himself succeeded by Mr Lucas, from whom the surgery and practice passed to the present occupier, Mr Johnson.

Before passing from No. 58 to the corner house, it should be added that the most southern of the three cottages, which formerly stood on the site with which we have been dealing, was long known as *The Antelope*.

We come lastly to the corner house, No. 57. This was of old the property of the Hospital of St John and St Mary Magdalene of Ely; but the Emmanuel authorities early in their career obtained possession of it by the gift of Dr Leedes, the Master of Clare College. We have already seen how, in the year 1586, a beneficial lease thereof had been granted to the architect Ralph Symons. He built certain new buildings, including a range called *The Pensionary*, next to the corner house along Emmanuel Lane. This was apparently inhabited not by students, but by servants of the College. About a century later, the corner house was rebuilt, and was then known as Roxton Hall.

In the lease granted to Ralph Symons, this property (consisting, and still consisting, of some nine cottages) is said to be bounded on the east by "the tenement or ground belonging to St John's College<sup>1</sup>." This shows that the property of that

<sup>1</sup> An old rental, dated 6 Henry VII, preserved in St John's College, speaks of this being leased to John Howlyn. The abutments were: a tenement of

College at the rear of *The Antelope* (mentioned in dealing with what is now 58, St Andrew's Street) reached to Emmanuel Lane.

Of the nine tenements eastward from Roxton Hall, the last was of old used by the College as a lime-house; but in 1772, this building with the said corner house and the adjacent cottage were leased to Mrs Lydia Thackeray. Continuing along the lane just named, it may be noted that the authorities of St John's, in the year 1872, allowed Mr Rance a passage from his large house in St Andrew's Street into the lane next to No. 9, and the Alderman here erected a tenement known as Southgate Lodge.

Next to this came a small property, No. 10, which was long in the hands of the Corporation. This, however, like most of the block we are considering, has now been acquired by the neighbouring College.

For the new Emmanuel buildings lately erected, this house (No. 10) and other tenements, which formerly stood between it and the east end of the lane, have been demolished.

They may be briefly recalled as follows: Six tenements (Nos. 11 to 16) came next, the first of which was larger than the others. From its occupation in the middle of the eighteenth century by a Mr Thomas Wright, it was formerly known by his name. Later on it was occupied by the esquire-bedell, John Beverley, whom Gunning so disliked. In the nineteenth century it passed, with the adjacent five cottages, into the hands of a well-known Cambridge citizen Mr Peete Musgrave, from whom it passed to one of his distinguished sons. It was latterly occupied by Mr James W. Prior, solicitor.

Passing the small cottages (Nos. 12 to 16), the mansion next was (together with certain adjacent tenements at the corner of the lane and round in Drummer Street) formerly known as the White Horse. This property was purchased early in the seventeenth century by Emmanuel College; the abutments were said to be: Preachers' Lane on the south, the way

St John the Baptist of Ely on the west, a tenement belonging to the Town Treasury on the east, on the south "super Regiam Viam, vocatam *Cowlane*." This gives us a new, or rather an old name, for the Lane.



to Barnwell Fields on the east, the grounds of St Nicholas's Hostel on the north, and on the west partly a messuage of William Parkins and a barn (called Andrew's Barn). In the large house at the end of the eighteenth century dwelt the Rev. George Borlase (who was Registry and afterwards Professor of Moral Theology). On the death of his widow in 1836 a Mr Searle lived there; and later on the house passed successively into the hands of Mr Gunning and Mr Clement Francis, remaining in the possession of the family of the latter until its recent demolition.

As to the eastern road, which we have now reached (called formerly Hinton Lane, or the way to Barnwell Fields, and now known as Drummer Street), it need only be said that there were certain small cottages which were part of the "White Horse" property. One of these, styled the "Heart's Ease," "being a low public-house was converted into three respectable tenements" by Mr Francis, who also was permitted to pull down a brewhouse which stood at the east end of the St Nicholas's Hostel grounds. A piece of waste ground by the side of the road was claimed by the Corporation, but this was long since purchased by the College authorities.

On the same road, passing towards the south, at the east of the College grounds, there formerly stood (besides the College Brewhouse) two houses. In one of these the Rev. Robert Masters, the historian of Corpus, at one time resided; and Mr Gunning, the esquire-bedell, tells us in his *Reminiscences* that he, for some years, resided with his widowed mother (*née* Whish) in Emmanuel House, as the building was called. In the year 1821, a lease of the property was granted to Rev. James Goodwin (formerly Bones), who resided there for many years. In 1886, the Emmanuel authorities demolished the buildings and replaced them by a tutor's house and the Hostel Buildings.

Returning to the main street, and going south past the College, we come to the houses now numbered 56 and 55, the latter of which is occupied by Mr Congreve. This site is of no little interest, for until comparatively lately it was (and probably had been for six or seven centuries) the property of the ecclesiastical authorities at Ely. Here was perhaps the

grange so often referred to in connection with St Andrew the Great. It was probably at this house that a Mr John Delaport, in 1763, "opened a Coffee Room next to Emmanuel College, in a pleasant garden." The long and extraordinary advertisement of this establishment is given in full in Cooper's *Annals*, iv, 328, 329. In 1858 it was purchased by the late Alderman Charles Finch Foster, who built a manse for the Baptist Chapel opposite. The property was, however, acquired by Emmanuel College in the year 1899.

In a map of Cambridge published by Cadell and Davies in 1808, there are one or two other tenements further south along the Hills Road, *terminating* with a veterinary surgery, occupying part of the present University Arms. No other buildings lay to the south of this.

Across the street, on the west side of Hills Road, according to the same map, was the *Old Theatre*, where the Downing Porter's Lodge now stands. Reference to this "Playhouse" may be seen in the lease of the site made by the Corporation to the present holder.

Let us now return northwards towards the Barnwell Gate. We immediately meet, as already mentioned, older buildings.

First in interest, though not in order, we notice the notorious Spinning House, or Hobson's Workhouse, which was founded by the carrier-benefactor of that name in the year 1628. It has comparatively lately (in 1901) been replaced by the Borough Police Station.

The former rural character of this part of St Andrew's Street may be noted from the description of the building in Carter's *History of the County of Cambridge*<sup>1</sup>, commenced in the middle of the eighteenth century:

"The Bridewell (called by the inhabitants the Spinning House) is pleasantly situated near the fields at the south end of the parish of Great St Andrew's, and is chiefly used for the confinement of such lewd women as the Proctors apprehend in houses of ill fame; though sometimes the Corporation send small offenders thither, and the crier of the town is often there to discipline the ladies of pleasure with his whip."

If we go back to the date of the indenture<sup>2</sup> of feoffment by

<sup>1</sup> Carter, *u.s.*, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities*. 1838, p. 24  
C. A. S. Octavo Series. No. XLVII.

which Thomas Hobson conveyed the property to the trustees, we find further proof of the rustic appearance of the estate, which is described as

“a message and tenement, dove-house and site of a dove-house, a barn, and all houses and edifices then built upon the farms, gardens, curtilages, courts and grounds thereunto belonging, with all their appurtenances, in the parish of St Andrew, without Barnwell-gate in Cambridge.”

The deed seems to imply that some kind of “poor-house” had already stood on the site.

As the writer has already<sup>1</sup> dealt in detail with the Spinning House and its history in a former communication to this Society, nothing further need be said upon the subject here and now.

Only—as leading on to the next paragraph—it may be pointed out that employment was specially found for “combers of wooll” and the weavers of the town, and that several of the keepers of Hobson’s Workhouse are described as “woolcombers” and “worsted-weavers.”

In an old Cambridge newspaper<sup>2</sup>, it is stated that on the 3rd of February, 1791, “the wool-combers of this place rode through the principal streets in grand procession, attended with flags and martial music, in commemoration of Bishop Blaze.”

Now, it will be remembered that the ecclesiastic just named was the patron saint of weavers and woolcombers. We cannot, therefore, be surprised that a well-known Inn in the neighbourhood of Hobson’s Workhouse was called the *Bishop Blaise*. This Inn was however pulled down by the much abused Bishop Watson and replaced by a mansion (still standing) which he named *Llandaff House*, after the diocese to which he was appointed in 1782, which he held for thirty-four years, and which (following the example of Archbishop Laud, when he held a Welsh bishopric) he is said never to have visited. The conversion of the Inn into a private residence<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Cambridge Parish Workhouses*, C.A.S. *Proceedings*, lix, pp. 87-94.

<sup>2</sup> *Cambridge Chronicle*, quoted in Cooper’s *Annals*, iv, p. 441.

<sup>3</sup> For nearly a century this house was the home of a well-known private school.



was commemorated by that somewhat spiteful epigrammatist, William Lort Mansel (afterwards Master of Trinity and Bishop of Bristol) in the following lines:

“Two of a trade can ne’er agree—  
No proverb can be juster;  
They’ve ta’en down Bishop Blaise, you see,  
And put up Bishop Bluster.”

Blaise Inn—which, by the bye, was partly in the parish of Great St Andrew and partly in that of St Benedict—stood a few doors to the south of the Spinning House.

It should be added that in the year 1788, the town gaol was removed from the old building adjoining the Town Hall, called the Tolbooth, to a newly-erected edifice in the old lane, now called Downing Place. This building, which stood at the back of the Spinning House, opened by a large gate into the main street, just south of that Workhouse. The new gaol cost the town £911. 10s. A very curious account of the condition of this and other prisons in Cambridge may be seen in the *Gentleman’s Magazine*<sup>1</sup>, for the year 1802.

On June 23rd, 1827, the royal assent was given to an Act for building a new gaol for the town of Cambridge; a curiously-shaped prison accordingly was erected soon afterwards on Corporation ground to the south of Parker’s Piece, from the design of Mr Wm M<sup>c</sup>Intosh Brookes, at a total cost of £25,000. From the year 1829 to May 15th, 1879, when this gaol was dismantled, it formed a prominent feature in the south of Cambridge.

Reference need not here be made to the transference of prisoners, etc. to the old gaol at the Castle Hill. But it must of course be recorded, that in the year 1901, the site of the Spinning House and of the Downing Place prison was covered by elaborate new Police offices, erected from the designs of Mr John Morley, architect.

Next to the Spinning House, on the north, stands and has stood for nearly two centuries the Meeting Place of the Baptist community. To the rear of this, in Downing Place, there had been founded towards the end of the reign of Charles II or the

<sup>1</sup> *Gentleman’s Magazine*, lxxiv, p. 897; Cooper’s *Annals*, v, p. 527.

beginning of that of James II an assembly for the Presbyterians, which after a while at the instigation of Joseph Hussey, their pastor, was changed to a gathering for Congregationalism. The varied and interesting history of this society cannot here be recorded. In the year 1874, a move was made to Trumpington Street, where at the northern corner of Little St Mary's Lane a new Chapel was erected.

To return to the Downing Place Meeting House. Away back in the year 1721 a portion of its congregation seceded and started a Baptist community; fitting up as a meeting house a stable and a granary in a place called the Stoneyard, next to the Spinning House. This place of worship was rebuilt in 1764, and again in 1837, and yet again in 1904.

[Speaking of nonconformist chapels, it may be added that one of the first places wherein the Methodists met for worship was a room in the yard of the Brazen George, which as we have seen was just to the south of the parish church. As the town ditch ran at the back thereof, this early Wesleyan meeting house was known as "the Black Ditch."]

A door or two away from the Baptist Chapel on the north side stood, and still stands, "the Old Castle" Inn already mentioned, and next to that (but now converted into two shops with a yard between them) was another public-house, "the Bricklayers' Arms." This was formerly the well-known *Michael House Grange*. But to this, and to the Old Castle, reference has already been made in a previous section.

Next perhaps to this site—though mention of the fact should rather have been made in dealing with the older buildings—stood of old a messuage which a renowned citizen<sup>1</sup>, Henry of Tangmere, bequeathed in 1361 to his wife Matilda, and which that lady and her son gave to Corpus Christi College. The property is described as "lying in the parish of St Andrew outside Barnwell Gate, between a messuage of John of Essex and that late Simon the Glover's, abutting one head on Swynecroft, the other on the King's way called Prechourstrete."

<sup>1</sup> Masters, *History of C.C.C.*, p. 21; *Camb. Gild Records*, Mary Bateson, C.A.S., xxxix, p. 146.

A few more houses bring us to the present Downing Street. One of the many names by which that road was called, was Bird-Bolt Lane. This reminds us that a celebrated Inn so named stood for centuries at the northern corner of St Andrew's Street and Downing Street. This important building was in mediæval times in the possession of St John's Hospital, and it passed into the hands of the College of that name. In the archives of this foundation<sup>1</sup>—to which the property still belongs—may be seen many records of leases relating to this well-known hostelry. Some of these may be quoted on account of the names of the tenants and for the sake of the references to the abutments.

On January 12th, 1539, there was granted to William Badcocke a tenement with a back yard and garden in St Andrew's parish "in the streete comunly called fryer prechers streate, buttyng on the est ende upon the forsaid streate, next upon a yarde called fayer yarde, north upon a tenement of the Kynges somtyme perteynyng to the late Monasterye of Barnwell, and of the south parte upon a lane called langer lane." The Friars Preachers' Street was, as we have often noted, the present St Andrew's Street; Langer Lane was one of the names of Downing Street; while Fair Yard was of old often applied to Hog Hill, or St Andrew's Hill.

On the 7th March, 1577, a lease was granted to Jo Redayme (*sic*), of Cambridge, gent., of the *Burbolt* with three tenements and a garden all in St Andrew's parish, for twenty years, at a rent of 28s. Mr Redman was a well-known Esquire-Bedell (1563–c. 1579), who, like several other of those officials, had many financial and commercial dealings.

In another Lease Book in the Treasury of the same College, a grant was made on March 12th, 1596, "to William Munnes of Cambridge, yeoman, of the *Burbolte* in St Andrew's parish (abutting south on the lane leading to Pembroke hall, east on Emmanuel College, west on the lane leading to St Thomas a lees, commonly called Slaughterhouse lane, north on one Mason's

<sup>1</sup> The writer desires to express his obligations to that learned and keen recorder of the history of his College, the Master of St John's. See also Baker-Mayor, *index*.

house), for 20 years, at a rent of 53s. 4d.” The variations in describing the abutments are interesting, but need no comment.

In the same volume, under date March 27th, 1609, a lease was made to William Scarlett of Cambridge, stationer, of the *Burbolte* in St Andrew’s parish, for forty years, at the same rent as in the last case. On the same day a licence of alienation is recorded for the above. William Scarlett was a well-known Cambridge stationer.

From the *Victuallers’ Book* in the University Registry may be quoted the following licence<sup>1</sup> granted by the Vice-Chancellor in the year 1631:

“The Hanging Burbolt in St Andrew’s Parish, an Inn. To ALL XTIAN PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come to be read or seene, HENRY BUTTS Do<sup>r</sup> of Divinitie and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Sendeth Greetinge. KNOW YE that I the said Vice-Chancellor, having been credibly informed that the House of William Pether, called the Hanging Burbolt, in St Andrew’s Parish, in Cambr. is a fitt and convenient House to be made an Inn, and hath sufficient and fit Lodgings and bedding for such guests as shall resort thither, and large stable room for their horses, and convenient and fitt passage into the same, have permitted and allowed the said House to be made an Inn, and to be hereafter known and called by the Signe of the Hanginge Burbolt. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal of office, this second day of March A<sup>o</sup> Dni Juxta etc., 1630.

HENRY BUTTS, Pro. Canc.”

Dr Butts was the Master of Corpus<sup>2</sup> who, having acted so heroically during the long-continued outbreak of the plague in Cambridge, met with such a tragic death on Easter Day, 1632.

Between this corner house (where now the Norwich Union offices have replaced the old Bird-Bolt Inn) and Great St Andrew’s Church by the Barnwell Gate, there have for centuries been various buildings, some of which are referred to in documents still existing in the archives of Corpus Christi, St John’s, Christ’s, Jesus, Emmanuel and other Colleges. Such an one is No. 21 (now Messrs Flack & Judge’s), which has always been known as “the Challice”—which sign, it will be noticed with

<sup>1</sup> Cooper’s *Annals*, vol. iii, p. 238.

<sup>2</sup> Stokes’s *History of C.C.C.*, pp. 98–100.

interest, has been retained on the front of the restored building. This tenement was of old the property of Corpus, but was sold by that College. It was given to Emmanuel by Dr Harvey in 1584. The College just named has other houses near—part of Messrs Sayle's premises, for instance, which Emmanuel purchased in the beginning of the seventeenth century from a prominent Cambridge citizen named Wolfe. Other property in this neighbourhood was at one time in the possession of Thomas Bracebridge, a well-known yeoman-bedell.

Reference has already been made to the Brazen George Hostel, to the two houses to its south (once owned by Scocroft and Troilus Atkinson) and to the early Wesleyan Chapel to its rear.

This brings us back to the Ditch, to the Church and to the Gate.

## CHAPTER VIII

### BY THE WAYSIDE

It has been conjectured, as noted above, that the road which led from Cambridge to the hills in the south-east ran parallel to an old Roman road. It was probably formed casually, and it certainly had waste-pieces on either side. Until Worts's Causeway was constructed, the road itself must have been a very indifferent one.

Of course, as far down as the Dominican Friary on the east side and as Michael House Grange on the west, the frontage must have been settled in early times. Though even right up to the King's Ditch we read, in an old document<sup>1</sup>, of "a void ground between St Andrew's Church and the Wrestlers," an old Inn at this end of the Petty Cury. Again a similar reference speaks of "the waste ground near the Grate (?) in St Andrew's." While the quotation<sup>2</sup> "Ye stoapys a y<sup>e</sup> syde Christ's Colledg" reminds us that posts in front of the Lady Margaret Foundation tell of an uncertainty as to road and pathway. The tall pillars in front of the gateway of Christ's with the posts and intervening rails are elaborately shown in Loggan's print of that College (1690); and in the map of Cambridge by the same careful and skilled artist the condition of the road leading to the Hills may be observed; where it will be noted that beyond "the Blaise Inn" the wayside broadens out.

The following description<sup>3</sup>—though written comparatively lately—records the memories of an old inhabitant:

"The road now called Regent Street had broad strips of grass, for Parker's land did not quite run up to the road on the east side, nor did

<sup>1</sup> See *Toll-Case*, ed. Hatfield, 1826.

<sup>2</sup> Baker, *MSS.*, iii, 386.

<sup>3</sup> S. P. Widnall, *Gossiping Stroll through the Streets of Cambridge*, p. 107.



St Thomas's Leys (now called Downing College grounds) run up to the ground on the other side, but there were two strips left of road-side ground which were probably considered waste.

"The ground on the west side of Regent Street between it and Downing Grounds is said to have been gradually occupied by squatters, who inclosed patches, or put up buildings which remained undisturbed long enough for them to claim a right of ownership."

And so, further south, at the sides of what is still called Hills Road, were wayside patches. For instance, immediately on the east side, near where now stands the Perse School, was a large piece of waste ground, called "Ball's Folly." In the midst of this ran an open ditch nearly twelve feet in width.

Here it may be well to refer to the water-course which was constructed (early in the seventeenth century) along what are now Lensfield Road and (the west side of) Regent Street. This is graphically represented in Loggan's map of 1690, and is of course still a special feature of Cambridge streets.

There is in the Bowtell MSS.<sup>1</sup> so good a description of the water-course that, though it is somewhat detailed, the whole, by the kind permission of the Downing possessors of those interesting volumes, is here reproduced.

### *The Little New River.*

"Dr Parker, the worthy archbishop of Canterbury, in his chorographical table of Cambridge, published in 1574, suggested the great advantage the town would derive were the water course enlarged quite down to Cambridge from the springs which rise at the foot of the Gogmagog Hills.

"Due attention being afterwards paid to that judicious intimation, the design was put in execution (A.D. 1610), chiefly by the encouragement of Dr Montague, master of Sidney College, who with the assistance of a distinguished member<sup>2</sup> of the University brought the water in a channel

<sup>1</sup> Bowtell MSS., vol. iii, pp. 707-8.

<sup>2</sup> The person chiefly consulted about this scheme was Edward Wright, M.A., of Caius College, the most celebrated mathematician of his time: the same ingenious man, who, in 1599, projected Mercator's Chart, by describing the true principles with their application to navigation. The same gentleman also gave the method of carrying the New River from Ware to London, which was begun 28th February, 1609, at the expense of Sir Hugh Middleton, who, on its completion in 1614, obtained immortal fame for himself, whilst the memory of the real inventor was suffered to fall into oblivion. This excellent

about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length from the brow of the said hills to the Conduit Head at the south end of Cambridge.

(Then follows an account of the agreement, 6 July, 1610, between the University and the town and Mr Chaplin, the owner of part of the land passed through.)

“Whilst the University and the Corporation were employed in forwarding the work of this little river, the ever-memorable Hobson formed the design of carrying the water through leaden pipes from the Spittle-house to the centre of the town, where a conduit was erected at his expense in 1614.

“The waste water of this new river ran from the conduit-head down Trumpington Street, where the inhabitants found it both useful and pleasant; insomuch that before the year 1634 Walter Frost<sup>1</sup> then living in Preachers’ Street caused another cut to be made from the said conduit-head to run through Emmanuel College, and so to wash the kennels of Preachers’ (*alias* St Andrew’s) street, down by Christ College into the King’s Ditch. Towards perfecting this work the sum of 50<sup>11</sup> was contributed by Christ College.

“Most of the streets of Cambridge are capable of being rendered peculiarly salubrious by the constant flow of this pleasant stream.

#### “*Court of Sewers.*”

“At the Guyld Hall in Cambridge, April 23rd 1634, it appeared that whereas heretofore Gualter ffrost hath been appointed by the order of the Court expeditor to lay out certaine somes of money in clensing the River of Grant within the liberties of Cambridge, which sums ought to have been repaid him last year, it was ordered that Mr Frost should be reimbursed by such inhabitants of the town as received the benefit of the commons belonging to the town;

“and whereas part of the new river is of late brought from the Spittle-house-end and runneth by and through part of Emmanuel College and so on the backside of the town to Christ-College-wall, and so down to Wall’s-

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mathematician took his first degree in arts 1580–1, and that of M.A. in 1584. He invented the standard for weights and measures, and, in 1599, published a book entitled *The correction of certain errors in navigation*, which was followed by an improved edition of the same in 1611. He died in 1615. Some notice is taken of him in Dr Hutton’s *Mathematical Dictionary*, and also in the *Monthly Magazine* for July and September, 1800.

<sup>1</sup> Mr Frost was a native of Suffolk. He afterwards became secretary to the Council of State. See Atwell’s *Faithful Surveyor*, ed. Camb. 4to, 1662. He lived in a house towards the south-east end of St Andrew’s Street, formerly inhabited by Mrs Delaporte. His son Walter was admitted of Emmanuel College in 1634 (*vide* Coll. Reg.).



end-lane and into the pond<sup>1</sup> there; and so runneth about by the Causey into Jesus-close-ditch and Nunn's Lake, it is ordered and decreed that the same shall from time to time hereafter be elensed<sup>2</sup> at the charges of the Masters and Fellows of Christ and Emmanuel Colleges.

"The bridge over this new drain near to Christ College wall to be kept in repair by the master and fellows of Christ College, and the bridge near to the brewhouse of Emmanuel College, to be hereafter kept in repair by the brewer thereof for the time being on pain of xx<sup>s</sup> for any default.

"By the joint consent of the Masters of Christ and Emmanuel Colleges, the water is to be, as it may be thought convenient, occasionally let out at Emmanuel-lane-end, to run down the street through the grate by Christ College into the King's Ditch, for the convenience and benefit of the inhabitants."

The construction of the water-courses, thus described, necessitated the building of vaults, or "bridges," whenever they crossed a road or passed under special places.

Thus, in Loggan's Map, at the commencement of the present Hills Road, there is shown a small bridge in the middle of the highway. This was known as "Sentry Bridge." It is alluded to, for instance, in the following extract from an Act of Parliament<sup>3</sup> as to the repair of certain roads—among which is this: "from the Sentry Bridge at the south end of Regent Street to the Conduit Head where the said road joins the road from the north end of Addenbrooke's Hospital."

(The writer ventures to suggest that the curious name of this bridge is connected with the fact that, in Cromwellian<sup>4</sup> days, a great ditch was cut and a bank thrown up at the north-east corner of the cross-roads now being considered, i.e. at the Hyde Park Corner where Lensfield road meets Regent Street.)

<sup>1</sup> This pond was on the east side of Jackenett's Almshouses. It was filled up a few years ago, and houses are now built on the same spot, leaving only a passage (named New Street) leading from King's Street into Christ College Pieces (so written 1808). ("The pound" referred to may be seen represented on Loggan's Map, 1690. H. P. S.)

<sup>2</sup> The late Dr Peile, Master of Christ's College, told the writer, that once, when the water had been cut off during the process of cleansing, it was without notice turned on again, and the workmen who were employed in the channel received a good wetting (H. P. S.).

<sup>3</sup> Which received the Royal Assent on May 9th, 1828.

<sup>4</sup> See a MS. in the archives of Downing College, quoted by Prof. Maitland in *Township and Borough*, p. 115.

Another name for Sentry Bridge<sup>1</sup> was Stone Rake Bridge<sup>2</sup>.

Again when "the Brick Building<sup>3</sup>" was erected at Emmanuel in the mastership of Dr William Sandcroft, the contractor was ordered on February 9th, 1633, to make "A sufficient Vault, ouer the River," i.e. a tunnel to cover the water-course as it passed underneath the new set of college rooms.

And so in connection with the King's Ditch, the following phrase<sup>4</sup> "vought apud seynt Andrewstulpes" may perhaps be thus interpreted: a bridge over the ditch near the post of Barnwell Gate. While "Wales lane brigge" may mean a vault over the King's Ditch in Hobson Street, or its continuation.

The horseman who rode along the Causeway to the Gogmagogs, or the traveller who was journeying to Colchester, as he passed through "the town's end beyond Emmanuel College," could not but notice as the houses ceased on the east side of the road, the large open space called Parker's Piece, and on the west the St Thomas's Leys and the Marsh (where Downing College now stands).

Although these lands will be dealt with in the chapter upon the "Open Fields," a few words must be added here upon these prominent spaces outside the Barnwell Gate.

It has been noted that Parker's Piece became Corporation property by exchange in 1613, to be "laid out from tillage unto sward ground, and to remain and abide for ever common of pasture at all seasons of the year," being "ordered in such sort as the other commons of the town were or ought to be."

As to the appearance of this celebrated Piece, a quotation may again be made from the interesting reminiscences<sup>5</sup> of Mr Widnall:

"At first the land lay in ridges and furrows, with ditches and hawthorn trees about; on the west side was a small brook ("the new river") on its

<sup>1</sup> In the Trust Accounts of the Commissioners of the New River is the following entry, at p. 48: "1821. Cash towards widening Centry Bridge... 2. 2. 0." Quoted by the late Mr Geo. Matthew in a note-book on Cambridge waterways in the Cambridge Free Library.

<sup>2</sup> Bowtell MSS., iii, p. 420.

<sup>3</sup> Willis and Clark, *Architectural History*, vol. ii, p. 696.

<sup>4</sup> Mr Arthur Gray, in the *Cambridge Chronicle*, 23 Oct. 1894.

<sup>5</sup> *Gossiping Stroll through the Streets of Cambridge*, p. 107.

way to Barnwell Gate and the King's Ditch; it was the resort in spring of the youth of the town who went there maying. At length three college cricket clubs levelled and re-laid part of it to play upon, and afterwards it was all levelled and fenced round, chiefly by the exertions of Mr Humfrey, who was Mayor at that time (1837).

"Previous to 1818 there were no houses round it....

"Parker's Piece was not always the compact square that we now see it. It was divided by a hedge and ditch starting from somewhere at the back of the Prince Regent Inn, which proceeded in an irregular line towards East Road. The part on the south side of this hedge was called Donkey Common, as well as the land still so named on the other side of the road, a portion of which was enclosed to build a town gaol in 1827-8. This was taken down a few years ago (1879) when Queen Anne's Terrace was built on the site. Thus we see that this road had broad strips of grass on each side."

On the other side of the main road, as may be seen from Loggan's Map (1688), a large part was called the *Marsh*, while another portion was known as *St Thomas's Leys*, "formerly," (says quaint Fuller<sup>1</sup>) "the Campus Martius of the scholars here exercising themselves<sup>2</sup>, sometimes too violently; lately disused, either because young scholars now have less valour, or more civility."

This chapter on the wayside will conclude with an account<sup>3</sup> of the extraordinary and very discreditable dealings of the unreformed Corporation of Cambridge, as revealed at the Inquiry by Royal Commissioners in 1833.

Our concern here is only with the transactions among themselves of some of the privileged corporators as to the vacant pieces of land by the roadside—land which evidently was soon to become valuable.

Great surprise was created when the report announced for what small sums sales and leases for long terms had been arranged.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Univ. of Camb.*, ed. Prickett and Wright, p. 60.

<sup>2</sup> In an order as to the playing of football by the colleges, it was stated (29 Oct. 1632) that C.C.C. should be upon St Thomas Layes, and Pembroke upon the said ground, "but as they play not within 5 or 6 layes neere one to the other." Quoted in the *Cambridge Review*, 4 March, 1909.

<sup>3</sup> *Digested Report of the evidence before the Commissioners*, 1833, pp. 49, etc.

The following are examples:

The land, on which the last ten or twelve shops just south of the University Arms now stand, was granted to a favoured alderman at a rent of 10s., the purchase money being *one guinea*!

A large portion of the rest of Regent Street on both sides, with a total frontage of 1386 feet was, for £24, given to an agent who handed it on to another select alderman.

Yet another of these corporators secured the well-known estate, Michael House Grange, then called the "Bricklayers' Arms," for £20 purchase and a rent of eight guineas.

Further south alongside the Hills Road, a plot of about two acres just past where St Paul's Church now stands was purchased for £40 by one of the reigning city fathers, who the next year disposed of it for 400 guineas.

A relative of the purchaser just named secured from the select Corporation a piece of waste land near the Centry (*sic*) Bridge, containing 168 ft. in length by 40 ft. in breadth, for the sum of one guinea.

And another piece in the same neighbourhood, near where the Perse School now is, was also purchased for a similar sum and a rent of 5s.

And so on!

Anyone who reads the report quoted from, or who consults the list of Mayors of Cambridge for fifty years previously to the year 1832, will not doubt that the reforms wrought by the Municipal Corporations Act (1835) were called for.

## CHAPTER IX

### “THE OPEN FIELDS”

On the south-east, as on the north-west, of the old borough of Cambridge lay a vast (triple) system of Open Fields.

At the time when the Church of Great St Andrew was first built, and before the Dominican Friary was founded, these fields probably reached right up to where the King's Ditch afterwards ran. And only gradually were erected the public buildings, of which mention has been made, and the farms and granges which fortunate owners of strips on the roadside near the town made for agricultural and other purposes.

Right away therefore from the neighbourhood of the Mills near the Small Bridges across to the little bridge over the Stour—from Coe Fen to Newmarket Road—stretched the Open Fields with their varied crops. Here and there were plots of meadow—doles and closes; but meadows were scarce in Cambridge. Here and there were open commons, or later on fields were “laid out from tillage unto sward ground”—as, for instance, Parker's Piece, where in the memory of living men “the ridges” of the former ploughed lands were still visible, or on the Downing “leys” and grounds which have been sold to the University and where even yet the newly erected scientific Buildings have spared certain “way-balks.”

It may perhaps be permitted to give a brief account of the Common-Field system of husbandry, which for more than a thousand years prevailed throughout England generally, and around, or shall we say within, the old borough of Cambridge in particular.

The Open Fields consisted chiefly of *arable lands*, though there were interposed certain furlongs laid out as *meadows* for

supplying hay, and there were *pasture lands* commonable for a certain number of cattle. On the outlying *waste lands* rough grazing could also be had.

The arable land was generally divided into three fields, though sometimes there were only two. The fields under consideration to the south-east of Cambridge—"the Barnwell Fields," as they were generally called—were three in number: Ford Field (beginning at the Trumpington Ford and reaching to the Linton or the Hills Road), Middle Field (between Linton and Hinton roads), and Bradmore Field (which stretched from the last mentioned way to Newmarket Road). But there was a smaller field, called Estenhale or Stourbridge Field, right to the east, which was reckoned with Ford Field in the west in the rotation of crops, etc.

Each of the three fields was divided into "furlongs" or "shots," and each of the furlongs into strips, generally separated by narrow *balks* of grass; broader *balks* separating the furlongs. The pieces of meadow were similarly divided into strips. The normal strip was about an acre, which contained four roods.

These innumerable and disconnected strips were so divided under the theory that lands of different quality might be equitably assigned among the holders.

Turning to the method of cultivation, one of the three great fields would be sown in one autumn with wheat to be reaped of course about the following August; in the spring of the next year, this field would be sown with oats or barley; while in the third year it would lie fallow. The two other fields lay fallow successively in the following years; the crops corresponding to the above arrangement.

The fields were generally enclosed from seed-time to harvest; after which the fences were taken down and the cattle turned in to feed on the stubble. Right through the year the fallow land would of course be used as common pasture; while the meadows and pastures were commonable between August 12th and February 14th.

During the spring, while the cattle were on the common pasture, the meadow would be let grow for hay. When the time



for hay harvest came, each holder cut his own plots, and the meadow became commonable during the rest of the summer.

As to the ploughing, the arrangement generally of the three fields would be, as has been seen: (1) for fallow, (2) for winter tillage, (3) for spring tillage. The first work of the winter was the ploughing of the wheat field and the sowing of the wheat and rye, while the other two fields lay in stubble; and so in the spring for the oats and barley.

A common field-way mostly gave access to the strips, i.e. it ran along the side of the furlong and the end of the strips. Sometimes when the strips of one furlong ran at right angles to the strips of its neighbour, the first strip in the one furlong did duty as the *headland* giving access to the strips in the other. The owners of the strips in the furlong had the right to turn their plough upon the headland; and thus the owner of the headland had to wait until all the other strips were ploughed, before he could plough his own.

It is evident that this method of "champion farming," this system of "mingle-mangle," was very inconvenient and uneconomical. The restraint imposed by common tillage and fallow was trying. The interdependence of thrifty and negligent husbandmen was galling.

"As long as a considerable portion of the owners of strips were accustomed to yoke their oxen or harness their horses to a common plough, the system was a living one, capable of growth and modification according to the ideas of the people who worked it. It became, as it were, fossilised and dead, incapable of other than decaying change, when each occupier cultivated his own set of strips by his own plough, or his own spade."

And yet the system existed everywhere in the country until the Inclosure Acts of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries put an end to it.

In certain townships and manors there still exist maps of the open-fields of the neighbourhood; but unfortunately in Cambridge no such map is forthcoming.



But we still possess certain Field Books and Terriers which give in great detail the furlongs and the strips on the north-west and on the south-east of our university town. Especially may be mentioned a very elaborate Field Book of the transpontine Cambridge Fields, deposited in the University Library, and used by Mr Seebohm in his book on the *English Village Community* and by Professor Maitland in his fascinating *Ford Lectures*. The last mentioned work also analyses a remarkable terrier belonging to Jesus College. The present writer has also been allowed to consult this as well as quite a number of field books and terriers preserved in some of our older colleges—especially at St John's, at Corpus, at Trinity Hall, at Peterhouse<sup>1</sup>, at Trinity, etc. A few of these, like that at Jesus College, give both systems of triple fields; others, like the Library copy and one or two terriers at St John's, give the north-western fields only; while most of the others simply record the strips belonging to the individual college; but as these latter give the abutments, they are not only guides to college property, but they speak of the neighbouring strips and balks.

It has been lamented that no map of the Cambridge Open Fields is known at the present time. The writer<sup>2</sup>, however, has ventured to compile a map of the fields outside the Barnwell Gate—or rather of most of two of the south-eastern fields—of Fordfield and Middlefield. The Jesus book has formed the basis of the compilation; but many other terriers and field books have been consulted. Only those who have worked at such a map will be able to appreciate the difficulty of fitting in, from written descriptions, the various furlongs and strips, the gores, the balks, the paths, the bridle-ways, etc. In the accompanying map (see frontispiece), the compiler is quite aware that there is too much regularity in the ordering of some of the furlongs and the strips; but he believes that, should an old map fortunately leap to light, the general arrangement and much of the detail will be found to be recognisable.

<sup>1</sup> Quite lately, some most interesting old Field Books have been unearthed at this College.

<sup>2</sup> The writer is much indebted to Mr J. W. Corbett, of King's College, for valuable suggestions; and he thanks Mr F. W. Haslop for artistic help.

The numbering of the furlongs here adopted is that of the Jesus book: in Middlefield from No. 35 to No. 58; in Fordfield, from 62 to 75 (the last two of which are in Swinecroft, now Downing property, etc.).

It is to be hoped that the field book just mentioned may some time be printed in full, being collated with other terriers and illustrated by a constructed map.

It may be well here to give two or three specimens of furlongs, etc. taken from the Radegund volumes, noting, however, that various additions and subsequent comments have been made to them, since their original compilation in (probably) the second half of the fourteenth century.

Two furlongs may be taken, one from Middlefield—No. 36 (situate where the Perse School now stands)—and the other from Fordfield—No. 65 (through which Coronation Street would now run):

“FURLONG 36. E. & W. (γ)

Sel.	Acres	Roods	Perches		
2		3	0	P.B.	El.
2	1	0	0	Phil. Cayley	B.
20	10	0	0	Mortimer's Dole	R.
4	1	3	0	P.B.	El.
4	1	3	0	Alb. Can.	B.
2	1	0	0	P.B.	El.
1		2	0	Alb. Can.	El.
1		2	0	Nuns	P.
1		3	0	P.B. (δ) an headland	P.

(γ) On the south side of King's Lane and abuts west on Hadstock Way. Reckon the lands southwards. At the west end of King's Lane formerly a Cross, called Daw's Cross.

(δ) Lies in Shepherd's Close (No. 46), except a little piece at the west end.”

From other terriers we learn that the last selion just mentioned was “headland to Nether Pipe Straw gores at the entering of Peshall way, and account 3 roods.”

It will be noticed that the first two selions, which contain three roods, belonged to the Prior of Barnwell (P.B.); they afterwards passed to St John's College. They paid tithe to the Almoner (*Elemosinarius*) of Barnwell. The next two selions belonged of old to a well-known Cambridge citizen, Philip Cayley, whose property passed to Trinity Hall. It paid tithes to St Benedict's Church (B.). In a terrier preserved at that College, the section is thus described: "3 selions, 1 acre, on the south parte of King's Lane next Dawes Crosse, butteth on Barnwell land north and Mortimer land south, and west upon Hadstock way." The discrepancy in the number of selions will be noticed; but it may be added that there was a tendency as time went on to diminish the number of selions. In another terrier at Trinity Hall there is a later description of this plot: "2 selions, being in the furlong by the side of King's Lane south west, on Baule's Folly, hath St John's College Land on the north west, and Mortimer's dole on the south east—1 acre." Next comes Mortimer's dole, with twenty selions and ten acres. The Mortimer property, as is well known, was inherited by Gonville and Caius; and in a terrier in the archives of that College we read: "13 selions of Arable containing 10 acres lyeing between Trinity Hall land north, Mr Butler's Land south, abutting west on pudding pits alias Ball's folly slabs, which separates it from the Road to Gogmagog Hills, and east on a close of Mr Butler's land called Lime Kilne Dole." The notorious "Squire" Butler was the inheritor of much of the Barnwell Priory property; his Lime-Kiln Dole was in the next furlong, No. 37. "Ball's Folly" (known also by other names) was a strip of land with a ditch running through, in front of the present Perse Boys' School; the sale of which is alluded to on p. 46. Tithes were paid to Radegund (R.). And so on, with the other selions; Alb. Can. was the White Canons, whose house was near the present Addenbrooke's Hospital; the Nuns were, of course, those of St Radegund, the predecessors of the authorities of Jesus College. P. is St Peter's Church without the Trumpington Gate, now St Mary's the Less.

## "FURLONG 65. Abuts N. on the last.

Selions	Acres	Roods	Perches		
5	2	0	11	P.B., part of Long Croft	El.
2	2	0	0	John Gybon—Tho. Lane	El.
2	1	2	20	P.B.	El.
A way balk.					
1	1	0	0	Alb. Can.	B.
1		3	12	P.B.	El.
4	2	0	0	Alb. Can.	B.
1		2	0	Nuns in briga	M.P.
1		2	0	Hanket Poptington	M.
1	1	0	0	J. Gibon. Stake acre	B.
6	2	2	0	P.B. Matrimony Piece (a)	El.

(a) per viam Epi. lib. Pet."

Furlong 65 is in Fordfield. It abutted north on Furlong 64, which consisted of two doles, south of the present Lensfield Road. A terrier at Corpus says that it begins "next the Ditch," that is, next a ditch on the west side of the Hills Road. The same field book notes that the Way Balk goes "to Trumpington Fordwards"; the map shows that it is continued in the furlong (No. 66) to the south. The terrier at C.C.C. adds to succeeding selions, "more west." It will be noticed that the two last plots in this furlong have, as often happens, local names: "Stake acre," and "Matrimony Piece." The latter is said in the Bene't terrier to lie "by Bishop's Way." This pathway is noted in the Jesus MS. "per viam Episcopi"; the reference being to a field book at Peterhouse "lib. Pet.," which seems unfortunately to be lost<sup>1</sup>. At this College, however, there is a terrier of "the Semper lands" which were given to it by a Bedell in the fifteenth century; from which we learn that "Stake acre" had thus passed to our oldest College; it is described as "abutting south on land belonging to St John's College; north on lands of Mr Foot; east on lands of Mr Palmby; and west on lands belonging to Esq. Panton, called Matrimony Piece." This terrier is of course late, it is dated 1775; and again we see that certain land had passed from Barnwell hands to

<sup>1</sup> But see note on p. 50.

St John's College, while the bulk of the property had gone to Mr Panton.

The acre just described has a special name—it was called "Stake acre," and so, many of the furlongs and of the strips had their local names—and this particularly in the college terriers and doubtless in terriers belonging to private individuals. None of these latter is known to exist; though some may be forthcoming if attention is drawn to the subject. Where, for instance, is "an old Field Book made by Alderman Bright in 1575—a terrier of all the lands within the bounds of Cambridge now [said Bowtell (iii, 251) in 1796] in the chest of Great St Andrew's Church"?

It may be interesting to record some of these local names; only it should be noted that several of them are later than others, being insertions in the terriers by more recent owners.

Furlong 35 extended from the Black Friars' Monastery to King's Lane and included the doles of St Michael and St Mary, which we have seen were united to Parker's Piece.

Furlong 36 is called "Over Furlong"; it contains a "Mortimer's Dole."

Furlong 37 is "Middle over Furlong"; in it is Lime-Kiln Dole, or Brimble (or Bramble) Dole, or Parker's Piece Close.

Furlong 38 is another "Over Furlong"; part of it is called the short, and part the long furlong. A way balk to Pipe-straw gores ran across it. The last two "shoots" go from Hinton Way to Peshill Way, and are reckoned again in furlong 44. This furlong was also in later times called "the Windmill Furlong," as it contained the building which gave its name to the present "Mill Road."

Furlong 39 was called "Hinton Cross Furlong," as it abutted against the Cross that stood in Hinton Way. It was also called "Hounden Half-acre Footway," from the first plot in it.

Furlong 40 was known as "Long Dole Furlong," from a close which formed part of it.

Furlong 41 in the earliest field books, some six centuries back, is called "Pole Cat Furlong"; and it is interesting to notice that a farm of that name still exists on the same spot. In this furlong there were several pits.

Furlong 42 was called "Fen Furlong," or "Hinton Moor Furlong"; it began at Hinton Foot-bridge (which was placed over the ditch near the boundary of the borough).

Furlong 43 had no special features; it lay alongside Peshill Way.

Furlong 44 had "four lands of the Nuns reckoned also (as mentioned above) in furlong 38." It included a large dole, called "Pit Dole."

Furlong 45 contained the "over Pipe-straw gores," from which a way balk ran across furlong 38 to the Hinton Way. Pipestraw was an old Cambridge family name. An acre in this furlong was named "Lambert's acre."

Furlong 46, which is strangely shaped, was called "Shepherd's Close." It included the "Nether Pipe-straw gores," which linked it on to furlong 36.

Furlong 47 was another "Fen Furlong." It contained an acre called "Gutter acre," and a dole named "Nether Crane Dole."

Furlong 48 contained five acres known as "Mere Dole."

Furlong 49 included "Black Dole," or "Over Crane Dole," and "Nuns' Crane Dole," and between them "Eliot's acre."

Furlong 50 was known as "Rough Furlong."

Furlong 51, on the east side of Hills Road, like furlong 73 on the west side, was called "Hadstock Furlong"; and like the opposite furlong it has an extensive Pit Dole. A section of it, called Stockton's Land, is over against the entry to Little Potmoor on the other side of the road. Cayley's land runs through this furlong and furlong No. 54. Two acres are specially named—Nuns' White acre and Maiden acre. There is again a correspondence with the opposite Hadstock furlong in large Clay Pits towards the north-west.

Furlong 52, at the north end of the last, consists only of three acres.

Furlong 53 has a dole called "Long Sevens."

Furlong 54 was known as "Strange Furlong," and, as noted above, it reckoned Philip Cayley's land with No. 51.

Furlong 55 began at a hill called "Farthing Hill," at the north end of Endless Balk in Peshill Way; it included a selion which ran also through furlong No. 57.



Furlong 56 lay on the east side of Endless Balk; it contained a White Dole, an acre called "Mockett's," etc.

Furlong 57, as noted above, shared a selion with furlong 55.

Furlong 58, which was on the south of Peshill Way, included "Richard's Dole," which was six acres in extent, Prior's Dole, and "Cooper's acre."

We turn now to *Fordfield*.

Furlong 62, called "Over Furlong," which abutted on the north on Deepway (now Lensfield Road) and west on Trumpington Road, included Nuns' Dole and a Mortimer's Dole.

Furlong 63 was to the south of the last, and, like it, was bounded on the east by Bishop's Way, which also divided it from furlong No. 52 on the south.

Furlong 64 was another "Over Furlong," abutting on Deepway, and was composed of two doles called after Philip Cayley.

Furlong 65 lay to the south of the last, and was bounded by Hadstock Road on the east and by Bishop's Way on the west. This furlong has been set out in full on page 53; it includes Long Croft, Stake Acre and Matrimony Piece, and has a way balk running through it.

Furlong 66 is traversed by the way balk just mentioned.

Furlong 67 begins above the Clay Pits on Hadstock Road, and passes over towards the Trumpington Road; one portion of it, called Hore Acre, passing through furlong 67 to the New River. It contains a part of Long Croft, and Dawe's stall.

Furlong 68 includes only "8 selions," and was sometimes so called.

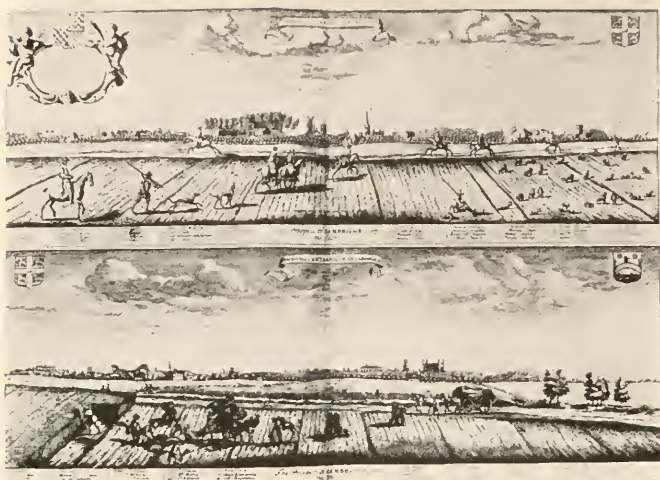
Furlong 69 stretches from the Clay Pits, and, "turning," ran right across to Trumpington Road.

Furlong 70 begins near the Clay Pits, and runs south, through the centre of Fordfield, to the Shelford Moor. It included Little Potmore Close and Goodman's acre. Towards the south, it turns and under the names of "the Hay Croft" and "Cayley's Dole" forms part of the southern and northern boundaries of Fordfield.

Furlong 71 ran along between the last furlong and the New River up to the Trumpington Ford.







Two Views of Cambridge, showing the Open Fields in the foreground.  
 [From Loggan's *Cantabrigia Illustrata* (1690).]



"Maitland's Trees."

Old Thorn-trees, marking the course of a Way-balk.  
 Between the Geological and Botanical Museums.

Furlong 72 reached from the parts of furlong 69 which were near the Ford, northwards to the portion of Bishop's Way which separated it from furlong 63. It included, as we have seen, Hore Acre which also ran through 67, and Hore Hill which was the section furthest north. There were some gravel pits in this furlong.

Furlong 73 lay to the south-east of Fordfield, and like the furlong (No. 51) on the other side of the Hills Road, was called Hadstock Furlong. It was also known as "Little Moor Furlong," or "20 acre Furlong." It touched the Clay Pits on the north; while towards the south (as on the other side of the road) was an extensive "Pit Dole."

This concludes the furlongs of Fordfield, with the exception of those numbered 69 to 71, which lay on the west side of the Trumpington Road and which are not dealt with in this treatise on the parts "outside the Barnwell Gate," but have already been treated in the writer's work on the lands, etc., "outside the Trumpington Gates."

There still remain furlongs 74 and 75, which were called "Swinecroft," etc., and which now form the grounds of Downing College. These were reckoned as part of Fordfield.

Furlong 74 was to the east, and began near Dawe's Cross, with a Mortimer's dole of some seventeen selions and eight-and-a-half acres. Towards the north were two way balks, which are well shown in Loggan's plan. The more northern of these is "still marked by old thorn trees," as Professor Maitland<sup>1</sup> pointed out. That lamented writer added that they were "soon to be destroyed in the interests of geology." But, fortunately, he was wrong. The trees have been carefully preserved by Professors Hughes and Seward, whose Geological and Botanical Museums they connect. They form one of the most interesting links with old Cambridge history.

Furlong 75 is at the west end of the last, and is now traversed by the comparatively recently made road, called Tennis Court Road. It was bounded on the west by the old buildings, etc. shown in the writer's "*Outside the Trumpington Gates.*"

<sup>1</sup> *Township and Borough*, p. 113, note 2.

Parts of these furlongs (Nos. 74 and 75) were called Swinecroft and St Thomas's Leys, and have been described in a previous chapter.

It should be added that, according to old field books, these furlongs began on the *north* side of the lane, now called Pembroke or Downing Street, and extended into "the Fair Yard" on that side. Doubtless the open fields formerly reached right up to the nucleus of the town.

This question of the Open Fields in general and of those on either side of Cambridge in particular, has been dealt with at considerable length, because it is felt that no one can understand the condition of our town in days of old, who does not realise the network of furlongs and selions, of strips and balks, which engaged the attention of our forefathers "outside the Barnwell Gate," and in the other suburbs of the ancient Borough of Cambridge.

#### NOTE.

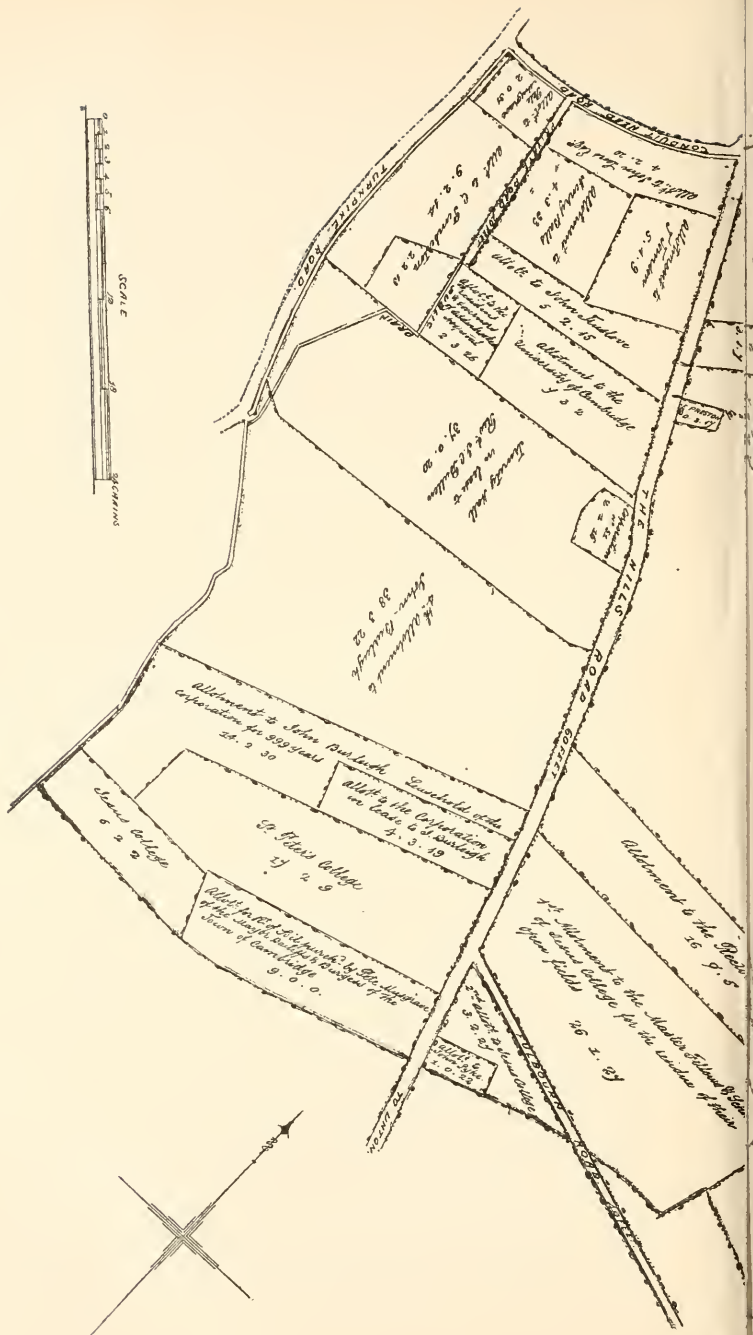
In Chapter VII an account of some *Later Buildings* was added to the description of the *ancient Ecclesiastical and Academic Institutions* which lay just outside the Barnwell Gate, and which are dealt with in the preceding section.

In the same way this chapter on the Open Fields, which existed more to the south thereof, might be supplemented by a record of the effect of Enclosure Acts<sup>1</sup> and of the rapid rise of the New Town district and of St Paul's Parish.

This, however, would encroach too much upon modern times; so that it need only be here stated that the strange University opposition, which compelled the erection of the Railway Station at least a mile from Great St Mary's Church, has led to the extraordinary extension of the southern suburbs of Cambridge.

<sup>1</sup> The Portion of *The Barnwell Award Map* (1806) is, however, reproduced, showing the Allotments made to the several owners.

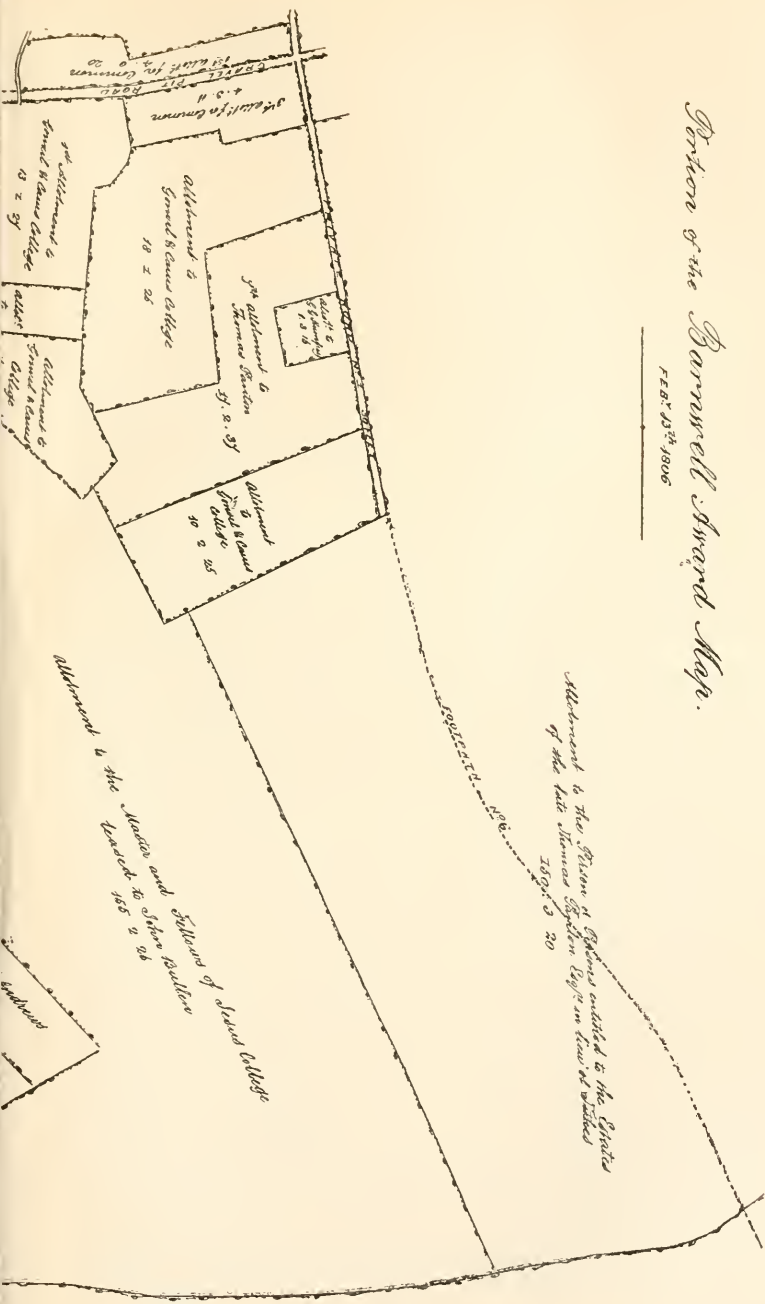
PORTION OF THE BARNWELL AWARD MAP (1806).



# Section of the Barnwell Award Map.

FEB. 13<sup>th</sup> 1906

Attention is also drawn to the position of the late Thomas Stephen Legg in that it was held 1897. 3 20







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